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Schwarzkopf wins deal for quick release of PoWs and declares big step forward for peace

Iraqi generals agree all allied ceasefire terms

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO Iraqi generals conceded all the ceasefire terms dictated by the international coalition yesterday. General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander, said: "I think we have made a major step forward in the cause of peace."

The allies pledged to pull out of Iraq as soon as a ceasefire was signed and both sides agreed to release all prisoners of war. A "symbolic" release, as a token of good faith, could be arranged very soon.

Lieutenant-General Suhail Hashim Ahmad, chief of operations, and Lieutenant-General Saleh Abdud Mahmud, commander of the Iraqi 3rd Corps in Kuwait, also gave the allied leaders details of minefields and agreed to demarcation lines drawn up by General Schwarzkopf to prevent further armed clashes. General Schwarzkopf was accompanied at the talks by Lieutenant-General Khalid bin Sultan, the Saudi joint commander. Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Bilière, the British commander, was also present as an observer.

Before the two-hour meet-

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ing, in a tent at Safwan air base in occupied Iraq, General Schwarzkopf was heard telling a senior officer: "I don't want to embarrass them. I don't want to humiliate them." He then told reporters: "I'm not here to give them anything. I'm here to tell them what we expect them to do."

Afterwards, he said: "We agreed on all matters. The Iraqis came to discuss and to co-operate with a positive attitude. We are well on our way to a lasting peace."

The next step, General Schwarzkopf said, was for Iraq to accept the UN security council resolution passed on Saturday. That called for the release of all prisoners of war before a final ceasefire could be signed, and allowed the coalition to resume hostilities against Iraq if it failed to meet all conditions. The resolution also demanded that Iraq rescind its order annexing Kuwait, an end to fighting, the return of plundered Kuwaiti property, and details of minefields and booby traps.

General Schwarzkopf said yesterday that the Iraqi generals had come forward with information on minefields in Kuwait and in the Gulf, "so we can begin operations immediately to make those areas safe."

The two sides agreed yesterday that details of the release of prisoners would be worked out by the International Red Cross, which has not yet had access to allied prisoners in Iraq.

Thirteen allied servicemen are known to be held captive and a further 66 are missing. 12 of those British airmen. Two of them, Flight-Lieutenant John Peters and his navigator, Flight-Lieutenant Adrian Nichol, were paraded on Baghdad television.

A British journalist held prisoner in Baghdad for 40 days said last night that he heard the voices of as many as

six British airmen while being held in jail. Peter Bluff, a member of a CBS television crew, said in an interview with ITN that he heard the men discussing their experiences on the night the ground war began.

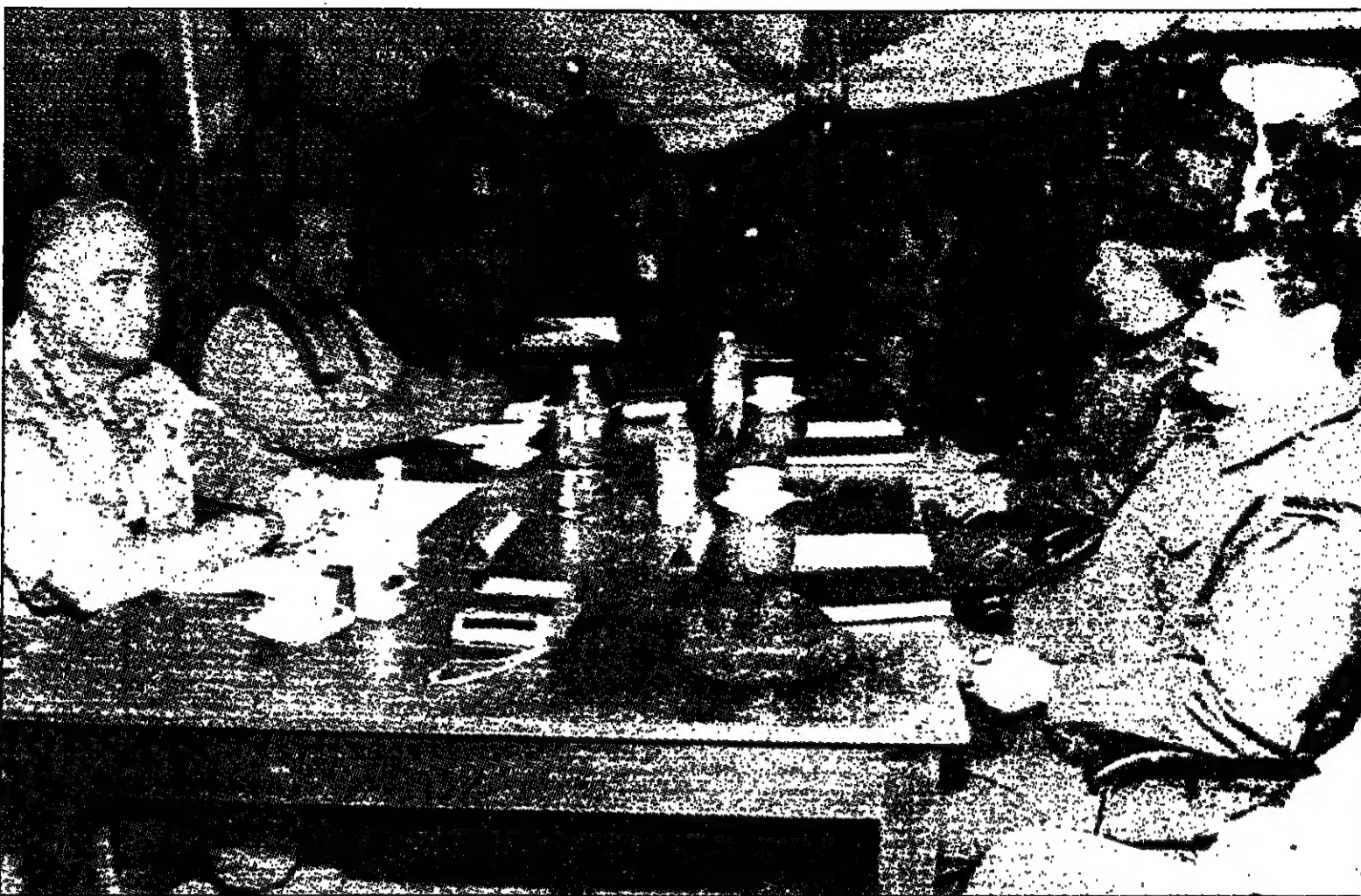
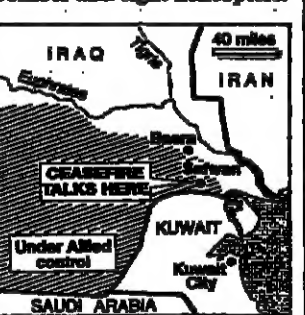
The Iraqis have been given the names of all those missing in action and have been asked for details of any who may have died in custody. There have been unconfirmed reports of two prisoners dying while in Iraqi hands.

The allies have taken more than 170,000 Iraqi prisoners, of whom some 800 are in allied medical units. Two are said to have died from malnutrition and dehydration.

The demarcation line drawn up by General Schwarzkopf is designed to prevent a repeat of the clash on Saturday when the American 24th Mechanised Division destroyed 187 Iraqi armoured vehicles. Many Iraqis were killed in the fighting.

In clean-up operations yesterday, allied forces captured another 1,405 Iraqi soldiers, including a brigadier-general and 89 other officers, in a pre-dawn sweep of Faylaka island, off the northern coast of Kuwait. The Iraqi soldiers offered no resistance and the allies confiscated several tanks, combat planes and artillery pieces.

The American military spokesman in Riyadh reported that a further 53 soldiers, again including a brigadier-general, were taken prisoner in ground operations in the battle zone. Anti-aircraft guns, rocket systems, tanks and armoured vehicles were seized. And at the Tall air base in southern Iraq, American soldiers found numerous enemy aircraft in bunkers. They took five Mirage F1 fighters, six Mig21s, one Su22 bomber and eight helicopters.



Peace agenda: Generals Norman Schwarzkopf and Khalid bin Sultan meet Iraqi military commanders in a desert tent yesterday

Looters fall on fleeing convoy

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER ON THE BASRA HIGHWAY

THOUSANDS of people turned out to loot possessions and weapons from the stricken Iraqi convoy which fled to the north, and in Kuwait City, Kuwaiti irregulars turned on Palestinians as the initial euphoria of the liberation of the country gave way to the uglier aspects of war.

Allied soldiers from a number of countries, including Britain, were still digging mass graves in the desert to bury the thousands, possibly tens of thousands, of Iraqis killed when the retreating convoy was hit from the air by American pilots.

As the killing fields stretching north from Kuwait City turned into the looting fields, questions were being raised about the morality of the attack on the column, which contained many civilian vehicles driven by the fleeing soldiers with their booty stuffed inside.

"The irony is that these people you see scavenging are looting goods that were already looted from them," said one American officer as he watched a large station wagon being filled with everything from dinner services to artificial flowers.

The sight of the thousands of charred and destroyed vehicles - many of which had crashed into each other in the panic to escape the strafing - resembled an appalling 20th century version of Pompeii, with every vehicle frozen on the highway and in the desert, where some had vainly tried to escape.

None of the allied soldiers nor Kuwaiti security men were taking any action to prevent the looting, which quickly acquired the euphemism of "liberating" stolen property. I saw one Kuwaiti resistance fighter, with five stolen rifles strapped round his neck, stumbling under its weight in the sand. All around there was the crackle of repeated gun fire but it was not a battle: merely looters testing the weapons which they had

Continued on page 18, col 7

Britain will honour troops with Gulf victory parade

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND RUTH GLEDHILL

THE prime minister has decided to honour Britain's 34,000 troops in the Gulf with a victory parade on their return home. The decision was disclosed shortly after the Bishop of Durham described the idea of a triumphalist Gulf war thanksgiving service as obscene.

The bishop was immediately criticised by other bishops who praised the government's role in the war and called for a thanksgiving service as an expression of gratitude to God. John Major has overcome his initial misgivings about a parade in the face of pressure from Tom King, the defence minister, and the military. The prime minister is understood to have been concerned that such celebrations might have been too triumphalist and might be represented as a glorification of war.

Government sources made clear yesterday that the contribution of the British forces to the success in driving Iraq out of Kuwait would not go unheralded. They pointed out that more British troops had been sent abroad than at any time since the second world war.

A senior Whitehall source said: "There will be a parade. Exactly when we don't know." He added that the timing would depend on when the troops were able to return.

"The nation has been fully behind what our sailors, airmen and soldiers have been doing. There has been tremendous support from the nation and this is one way of the nation saying thank you to



them for the sacrifices made and to their families," the source said.

The Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev David Jenkins, said a thanksgiving service with any element of triumphalism would be obscene. Any such service should be "focused on repentance and looking forward", he said.

In an interview with BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme, Dr Jenkins said that a service should concentrate on the number of deaths, the destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure, the damage done to the environment and the Third World's resultant view of the West. He said that the focus should also be on "repentance for having got into this mess" and gratitude for the end of the conflict, the efficiency of the army, and the small number of western casualties. "At the moment there is all this euphoria over a great victory and we should never have got into it."

Church leaders are anxious to avoid a rift between church and state similar to that perceived after the Archbishop of Canterbury's Falklands war sermon nine years ago. Margaret Thatcher, then prime minister, was reported to be "spitting blood" after Dr Robert Runcie preached a sermon that combined thanksgiving with mourning and a plea for Christian reconciliation. Dr Runcie asked the congregation to remember the Argentinians as well as the British dead.

The Bishop of Peterborough, the Rt Rev William Westwood, said that the Bishop of Durham was insen-

Tories to step up poll tax defence

By DOUGLAS BROOM

TORY councillors and backbench MPs are mounting a vigorous defence of the community charge to defeat plans by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, to replace it with a property tax. Mr Heseltine was accused by delegates at this weekend's Conservative local government conference of contributing to widespread non-payment of the poll tax by creating uncertainty about its future.

Helena Hart, a councillor for Barnet, north London, said that every party had been united in wanting to scrap the rates.

She urged Conservatives, during their May municipal election campaigns, to defend the essential fairness of the poll tax principle that everyone should contribute to the cost of local services.

Details, page 2
Leading article, page 11

Heseltine's green hopes

Michael Heseltine, in an interview with *The Times*, has spoken at length of his ambitions for environmental policy. He has begun a systematic pursuit of all 352 green policy objectives in the environment white paper produced by his predecessor. Page 5

Kinnock blow

Neil Kinnock's hopes that his support for allied operations in the Gulf would enhance his personal standing with the public have been dashed by the latest Mori poll for *Times* Newspapers. Only one person in 14 identifies him as good in a crisis. Page 2

Haughey accuses

The Irish prime minister, Charles Haughey, has accused Britain of harassing the Birmingham Six by regarding them as top-security category A prisoners on the eve of an appeal hearing which is expected to free them. Page 3

Carey protest

Dr George Carey, the Archbishop-designate of Canterbury faces a possible protest vote from some canons in the Canterbury diocese during the meeting to elect him on Wednesday. Page 3

Croatia clashes

Croatia was given 24 hours by the federal presidency to defuse tension between Serbs and Croats after clashes east of Zagreb. Page 9

Swaps settlement

The Citicorp bank has won a legal battle over disputed local authority interest-rate swap payments by securing an out-of-court deal with a Welsh council. Page 19

Sheffield revival

Once a struggling university, Sheffield has won an increase in funds and students because of its teaching quality, outstanding research and plans for expansion. Page 26

Arsenal win

Arsenal opened a three-point lead over Liverpool by beating the football league champions 1-0 at Anfield. Page 34

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Islamics say they have seized Basra

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISLAMIC revolutionaries led by a Tehran-based Shia cleric claimed last night that they had seized control of Iraq's second city Basra.

A small party of men saying they were loyal to Mohammed Bakr al-Hakim, head of the supreme assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq and a longtime protégé of Iran, told reporters at the Kuwait-Iraqi frontier yesterday morning that rebels in the city were under attack after 35 hours of fighting.

"The opposition control all the city," the leader of the band, a former called Hamad Ibrahim Wali, aged 32, said through an interpreter. "All

offices of the Saddam (Baath) party, police stations, security areas are all hit by the opposition, we broke the jails and let all the prisoners out," he added. "There are many dead, maybe hundreds."

The supreme assembly said in a statement issued in Beirut earlier that its forces had seized control of several areas in southern Iraq, including parts of the strategic city of Nassiriya on the Euphrates. Baghdad Radio reported that Saddam chaired a meeting of the Iraqi leadership yesterday to discuss restoring public services after the Gulf war and the latest political developments.

Major is licking the Soviet press into shape

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW



Cool style: Major in Westminster last year

JOHN Major has impressed the Soviet Union with a skill that has gone largely unappreciated in Britain - his deft ability to walk down Whitehall while simultaneously reading a newspaper and his approachability.

The prime minister, who arrives in Moscow late today for his first visit to the Soviet Union since moving to Number 10, has prepared his hosts well. A series of interviews with London-based Soviet reporters has given him the kindest advance billing he could have hoped for. The correspondent who remarked on the then chancellor's ambidexterity noted that Mr Major demonstrated such skill and pleasure "that we all immediately wanted to do the same". The reporter for

communist youth newspaper, added ruefully: "It is hard to imagine our finance minister walking down Tverskaya [Moscow's main shopping street] carrying a newspaper and an ice cream." Mr Major impressed the Soviet press with his relaxed air, his apparent ordinariness and his approachability.

In one respect, however, his achievements did not impress. *Komsomolskaya Pravda* said: "You can't surprise any of us with the rags to riches - or, in his case, building labourer to prime minister - story. After all, we have a president who started out driving tractors." Mr Major's much-praised ordinariness, so impressive in the British context, may be less of an advantage during his day-long working visit to Moscow. Adulation of Margaret Thatcher continues. They see plenty of men in dark suits and ties on television every night of the week, and

Mrs Thatcher was something quite different. People remember with glee how she outclassed the doyens of Soviet television interviewing her on her first visit, defending private enterprise and cruise missile deployment.

Inevitably, Mr Major is being described as "Thatcher's heir", and the Soviet press has discussed what he has and has not taken over from his predecessor. Many also express hope that the "special Gorbachev-Thatcher relationship" might be miraculously transformed into the special Gorbachev-Major relationship.

Mr Major will not, however, have a chance to assess Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader. There was "no time" to fit such a meeting into the schedule.

Bernard Levin, page 10
Leading article, page 11

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HIGH PERFORMANCE PENSIONS

Poll deals blow to Kinnock as Major leads on all fronts

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock's hopes that his staunch support for allied operations in the Gulf would enhance his personal standing with the public have been dashed by the latest Mori poll for Times Newspapers. Only one person in 14 identifies him as good in a crisis. Across a whole range of leadership tests he failed to make headway as the confrontation with Iraq turned to war.

The Labour leader's lack of progress contrasts sharply with the performance of John Major and Paddy Ashdown. Both leaders emerge from the conflict with their reputations greatly strengthened.

The poll does contain some consolation for Mr Kinnock. The surge in approval for Mr Major and Mr Ashdown is not reflected in support for the parties. The Conservative lead over Labour is down from five points last month to three points and the Liberal Democrats still trail badly. The full figures are: Tories 44 per cent, Labour 41 per cent, Liberal Democrats 11 per cent, Greens 1 per cent and others 3 per cent.

The level of economic optimism or "morale index", regarded as one of the best guides to a government's electoral prospects, is a dismal minus 27 per cent. The poll was taken just before last week's half-point cut in interest rates, and Tory strategists will be hoping that this feeds through into greater sense of economic well-being in the weeks ahead as the prospect of a general election comes closer. It also suggests

that any Gulf effect could prove short-lived. The Gulf was mentioned by 51 per cent as one of the most important issues facing the country, down 14 per cent on last month. Unemployment (37 per cent, up 3 per cent) and the poll tax (35 per cent, up 7 per cent) are also major concerns.

The figures for Scotland, where Labour support is 26 per cent ahead of the Tories, suggest that economic factors will soon reassert their dominance. The two key issues are unemployment, mentioned by 64 per cent of people, and the poll tax (48 per cent); 65 per cent expect the economy to get worse.

With 63 per cent of people satisfied with the way he is doing his job, the prime minister's post-war standing is even greater than the 59 per cent recorded by Margaret Thatcher at the end of the Falklands conflict nine years ago. Mr Major's satisfaction rating is up 26 points on his score in December. Mr Kinnock has enjoyed no such success with the electorate, in spite of his success in holding his party together on a potentially divisive issue. His rating of 43 per cent satisfied is one point lower than his score in January at the beginning of the war, and only six points up on December.

Mr Ashdown, by contrast, has made steady progress, up from 37 per cent satisfied in December, the same as Mr Kinnock, to 40 per cent in January and 45 per cent now. The Liberal Democrat leader has advanced on a broad

front. Over the past year, he has doubled the percentage of people identifying him as a capable leader, with an understanding of the problems facing Britain and the world and exercising sound judgment. Eleven per cent of people identify him as good in a crisis, five times his 2 per cent in February last year.

Mr Major enjoys the luxury of being ahead of his rivals on all fronts. His scores are markedly higher than Mrs Thatcher's, with the exception of being good in a crisis. He has even overhauled Mr Kinnock on the Labour leader's home ground of being seen as down to earth.

The survey reveals that Mr Major is proving particularly popular with a number of key groups, such as the young and people living in the Midlands, where the Tories are defending a clutch of marginal seats. Of the 18-24 age group, 10 per cent more people think him a capable leader than they did Mrs Thatcher. On this comparison with the former prime minister, Mr Major's scores are up among the DE social class of unskilled workers and benefit claimants (10 per cent), Midlands (10 per cent) and council tenants (16 per cent).

Mori interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,955 adults aged 18 and over at 149 constituency sampling points throughout Great Britain. Interviews were conducted face to face between February 22 and 25, 1991. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population.



Islands under a cloud: a mother escorting her young children from a church service yesterday on Orkney

Community living in fear as ritual abuse case families pray for help

By KERRY GILL

THE troubled community of St Margaret's Hope on Orkney, from where nine children were taken into care last week after allegations of ritual abuse, sought solace in prayer and communion yesterday.

In the small church of St Margaret's more than 50 communicants joined the Rev Morris McKenzie, their Church of Scotland minister, to pray for those touched by the allegations. The scene was made even more poignant as Mr McKenzie, aged 64, and who is recovering from a heart attack, has also been questioned by police.

A mother whose children are in care attended the service and took communion. Later, helped by friends, she was led away from the church in tears. A nurse was in attendance in case the minister should become unwell. Mr McKenzie offered prayers for his parish of South Ronaldsay and Burray. "We especially pray at this time for those in this parish," he said. "We remember at this time those in this parish, those whose hearts are heavy with sorrow. Visit them with your love and consolation and grant them your peace."

After the service he said: "The social work people are awfully misguided. All of this is absolutely horrific." His

wife, Janette, was also questioned by the police along with three of the four families whose children were taken from their beds early on Thursday morning.

The families will be given the opportunity to attend a children's panel tomorrow in Kirkwall, the islands' capital. They will deny the allegations and ask for their children to be returned home immediately. All say the allegations, based, it appears, on a statement by another child, are ridiculous.

The parents of the children concerned are accusing Orkney's social work department of carrying out a witch-hunt. This, they say, is because they and Mr McKenzie have supported another woman whose eight children were taken into care last November. She still has not seen them.

The Orkney Islands' council is expected to hold an emergency debate tomorrow night

to discuss the seizures. It is the first time they have been officially aired in public. Many councillors have said they are deeply disturbed by the allegations and the subsequent actions by the social work department under Paul Lee.

Mr Lee, the director of social work, has refused to give any public explanation. John Moyer, a solicitor for some of the parents, said a judicial enquiry must be held into the case.

Public meetings have already been held on the island. The biggest, in the Cromarty hall, St Margaret's Hope, was chaired by Helen Martin, a doctor and surgeon. Almost everyone who attended, including some of the accused parents, was shocked by the allegations. They also found them ludicrous in a distressing way. Many parents said they wondered what would happen

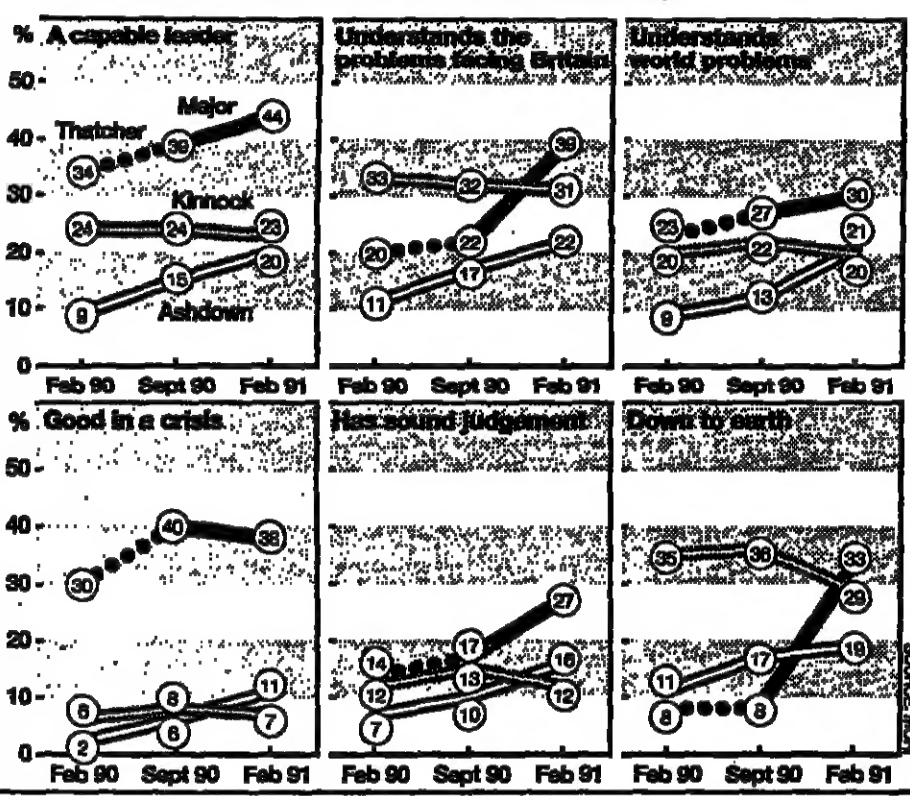
to them if they were to criticise publicly the social work department.

One local father said that the parents had been victimised for supporting the family whose children were taken into care last year. Another mother said: "If we stand up for these families we are going to be next. Our children are scared after hearing their school friends have been taken into care in case they go too."

A spokesman for the Scottish Office said a place of safety order for a child could only be issued after the go-ahead by a sheriff or justice of the peace, who had to be satisfied that there were reasonable grounds to justify the action.

Parents, he said, had a legal right to attend all hearings. Any objection made by them or a child had to be heard by a sheriff within 28 days.

CHANGES IN LEADERS' IMAGES



Charge of £600 may be group's swansong

By OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION this week to set Britain's highest poll tax may be one of the last acts of the hard-left Labour leadership of Lambeth council in south London.

Parallel moves by Labour's national executive and the London Labour party will weaken the grip of extremists within the next two months but will come too late to stop the council setting a community charge of at least £600.

Joan Twelves, the council's leader who publicly advocated non-payment of the poll tax, lost her seat on the ruling executive of the London Labour party on Saturday in a move which reflected growing impatience among moderates at the council's activities.

Meanwhile, Labour's national executive will today begin a formal enquiry into allegations of harassment and intimidation by left-wingers against moderate Labour councillors, which is expected to lead to the expulsion or suspension of leading members of the council.

If a sufficient number lose the party whip the way would be open for Labour moderates to take control in Lambeth in the same way that they have done in Liverpool after the expulsion of Militant councillors there.

A financial package designed to keep within capping limits was rejected last week when the Labour group voted it down. Ms Twelves and senior colleagues are now drawing up their own budget, which would lead to a poll tax of about £600.

Tories rally against plan to abolish the poll tax

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, is facing growing opposition from within the Conservative party to his plans for the abolition of the poll tax.

Conservative councillors are rallying in growing numbers to the defence of the charge, arguing that the principle that every resident should contribute to the cost of local services is fair and just and should be defended at the May municipal elections.

Mr Heseltine, who is heading the government's review of the charge, has made it clear that he favours replacing it with a property-based tax based on the floor space of homes.

At the Conservative local government conference on Saturday, delegates representing councils all over Britain made it clear that they favoured the principle if not the detailed practice of the poll tax. The longest applause of the day was given to a member of Barnet council in north London, who, with Mr Heseltine sitting only feet away, defended the poll tax and accused the minister of encouraging non-payment by calling the charge into question.

Helen Hart told delegates: "The community charge is the system that puts the local community in charge. People do recognise it as a personal charge and that councils really are more responsible and responsive to them. Up and down the country councils have been forced to cut out waste. Why do we, as Conservatives, never explain the essential fairness of the scheme."

She said that to abolish the tax would waste billions of pounds spent on setting up the

new system. "We have now got ourselves into the ridiculous position where we have asked the Labour party to help us work out an alternative."

Turning to Mr Heseltine, she said: "Every time you call the future of the community charge into question by stating that nothing is ruled out and nothing is ruled in, the only thing you do is to rule out the remotest possibility of those thousands of people who have not paid their community charge ever doing so."

Douglas Robertson, leader of Surrey county council, said to considerable applause: "I am not defending the community charge. I am promoting it. Replacing it with a property tax would be disastrous, he added."

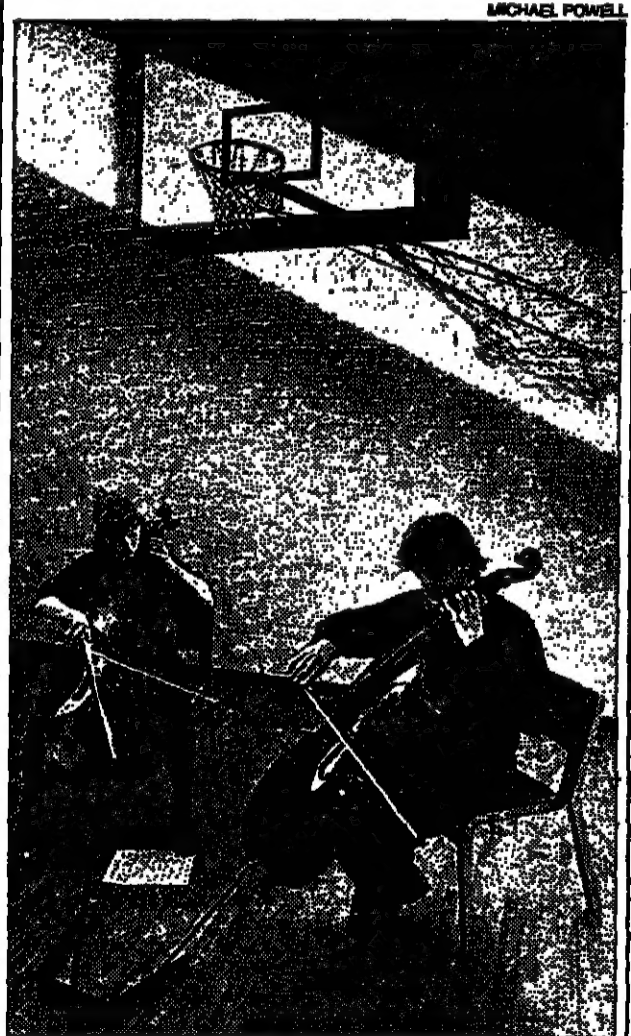
Mr Heseltine said that he made no apologies for his controversial offer to the

opposition to assist in the search for an alternative. "We have got to break through the circle of confrontation which surrounds this problem."

He would not be rushed into hurried decisions about the future. "The people who have the greatest vested interest in early announcements are precisely those with the greatest interest in harming the long term success of the Conservative party and its policies," he said. "We are determined to get it right and we will take whatever time it requires to achieve that end."

He said that the £1.7 billion community charge reduction scheme would reduce bills for 18 million people. In some areas between 60 and 70 per cent of the population would benefit.

Leading article, page 11



Cello duo: Emma Black, left, from Stoke-on-Trent, and Piz Constantino, from Germany, warming up for final auditions of the European Youth Orchestra at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London

Schools pay cost of generosity

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT schools give away more in scholarships and bursaries than they receive in the benefits derived from their charitable status, according to a survey published today.

The first edition of the Independent Schools Information Service magazine, *ISIS News*, found that the 1,200 schools surveyed gained £41 million in business rate concessions and tax relief. All but 100 had charitable status.

Bursaries, scholarships and other grant totalled £54 million. A survey in 1986 showed that schools gave £1.20 of help for every £1 in benefits, compared with £1.32 now. Schools said that increasing numbers of parents could not afford their fees.

A leading article in the new magazine by David Woodhead, national director of *ISIS*, expresses fears for the future of many schools if Labour fulfils its commitment to tighten eligibility for charitable status.

Ronald Butt, page 10
Education, pages 26 and 27

Abortions rise

THE number of abortions carried out in private hospitals in England and Wales rose by 31.4 per cent between 1985 and 1989 compared with 8.5 per cent in NHS hospitals, according to the trade union organisation Labour Research Department. It said financial problems in the NHS and the disinclination of some consultants and GPs to recommend abortion, was forcing women into the private sector.

Prize offered

The National Anti-Fluoridation Campaign has offered a £1,000 prize to the first person who can prove that fluoride in water supplies or in toothpaste improves dental health. The winner of the money, left to the campaign in a will, will also have to prove that raising the fluoride content of water is safe for everyone and that drinking fluoridated water for a lifetime will not cause any harm to teeth.

Crash enquiry

Investigators from the Department of Transport are enquiring into the cause of a fatal auto-gyro crash in Humberside. James Citherow, aged 39, of Northwich, Cheshire, was killed on Saturday when his aircraft plunged 50 feet to the ground at Melbourne airport near Pocklington, for no apparent reason.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings premium bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000: bond number 12CP 185391 (winner lives in Warrington); £50,000: bond number 9TV 726904 (Lincolnshire); and £25,000: bond number 14BB 514222 (Surrey).

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Haughey protests at 'final harassment' of the Birmingham Six



Haughey: "Insensitive and inhumane" move

By FRANCES GIBB AND STEWART TENDLER

CHARLES Haughey, the Irish prime minister, yesterday accused Britain of harassing the Birmingham Six by re-grading them as top-security category-A prisoners on the eve of an appeal hearing which is expected to lead to their freedom within days after 16 years in jail.

Mr Haughey claimed that the decision was "a final harassment, insensitive and bordering on the inhumane" and said Sir Nicholas Fenn, the British ambassador in Dublin, had been told of the Irish government's anger and dismay.

The Home Office insisted last night that the six — Gerry Hunter, Richard McKelvey, Hugh Callaghan, Billy Power, Paddy Hill and Johnny Walker — are category-B prisoners, and will continue to be treated as such. "It would have been very curious timing if the reports which the Irish government appear to have believed had been true. On grounds of expense alone we are reluctant to make people

category-A prisoners unless it is essential in the interests of security. It means they have to be accompanied everywhere."

The six men's third appeal will be heard today in the Court of Appeal. Last month the Director of Public Prosecutions admitted he could no longer claim their convictions for murder almost 17 years ago were safe or satisfactory. The six were convicted in 1975 of taking part in the bombing of two Birmingham public houses the previous year. They were sentenced to life imprisonment for the attacks in which 21 people died.

The appeal hearing is expected to last between three to five days and to involve at least four witnesses who have emerged as a result of fresh investigations in the past ten months. The case will be heard by Lord Justice Lloyd, sitting with Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Farguharson. Graham Boal, senior Treasury counsel, will appear for Sir Allan Green, the DPP. Michael Mansfield, QC, and Lord Gifford, QC, will appear for the men. One section of the hearing

will examine the validity of tests for nitro-glycerine carried out in 1974 after the arrest of five of the men.

The tests were made using a method known as the Griess test by Dr Frank Skuse, a principal scientific officer with the forensic science service. Dr Skuse said two of the tests were positive. In the years since, there has been debate as to whether the positive results could have been caused by substances other than explosives and about Dr Skuse's methods.

Witnesses are expected to include Dr Alan Scaplehorn, a Home Office scientist, and Dr John Lloyd, a former Home Office scientist who worked with him. Dr Skuse has also asked to give further evidence.

The DPP announced he could no longer rely on the scientific evidence on which the six were convicted after scientists had concluded in a report last year that it could not be considered positive beyond reasonable doubt. A second part of the appeal will look at police records of interviews with

the six men, which resulted in four signed confessions and two alleged oral admissions of guilt. The DPP announced that he would no longer seek to rely on police evidence.

Last year documents were tested under electrostatic document analysis, which can show fabrications or alterations. The technique raised doubts about records of an interview with McKelvey, which led to the home secretary's decision to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal.

Devon and Cornwall police officers investigating the convictions have interviewed 25 of the West Midlands police originally involved. Former Det Supt George Reade, who led the team, was first interviewed last summer. Two weeks ago he was seen again in Australia by John Evans, the chief constable of Devon and Cornwall. The transcript of the interviews will be studied by the court. Mr Evans may give evidence.

The full hearing of the appeal, on which judges have insisted, is not simply a display of judicial obstinacy. It will be of importance for

the Court of Appeal itself, whose own role will come under scrutiny. At the last preliminary hearing, Lord Justice Lloyd said that it might seem that "the result of the appeals is now a foregone conclusion". The judges did not share that view, he said. The task of deciding whether the verdicts were safe belonged to the Court of Appeal alone, he said, and he made clear it was a function that should be performed publicly.

"It is not enough for us to give our secret blessing to a view formed by the Crown Prosecution Service, even if it is shared by many others, on material which has not yet been made public."

The new hearing could lead to a test for judges to apply when dealing with alleged miscarriages of justice or a redefinition of what constitutes a "safe or satisfactory" conviction.

Mr Boal, for the DPP, said that there were two linked questions there requiring separate consideration: are the convictions safe and are they satisfactory? They need not necessarily be answered

in the same way, he said. However, there is scepticism as to whether a new satisfactory test could emerge 22 years after it was enshrined in the Criminal Appeal Act.

Peter Ashman, legal officer of Justice, said: "Lord Widgery put a gloss on this test of his own, that of whether the court had a 'lurking doubt' about the safety of a conviction. But many judges did not like it and do not use it. There is nothing to suggest judges will be more inclined to apply a new definition if it is not enshrined in statute."

The hearing does give the Court of Appeal its chance to examine fresh evidence publicly and to ensure blame is laid at the doors of those responsible for mistakes or misrepresentation. Finally the full hearing may be principally in the interests of the six themselves. Gareth Peirce, solicitor for five of the men, has said they wanted the compelling evidence which demonstrates their innocence to be known. "What has happened is a national disgrace. It must never happen to anyone again."

Heresy declaration puts Carey at risk of a protest vote

By RUTH GLEDEHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop-designate of Canterbury faces a possible protest vote from some canons in the Canterbury diocese during the meeting to elect him on Wednesday.

A number of canons have yet to decide how they will vote in the light of Dr George Carey's declaration that it was "a most serious heresy" to oppose the ordination of women priests.

Such a vote against an archbishop by members of the greater chapter of his diocese could be unprecedented, although detailed election results are never disclosed. Most previous archbishops have avoided controversy until after their enthronements.

Votes against Dr Carey would not cause panic in the Church of England but would add to the controversy already generated.

Dr Carey won the respect of many senior churchmen by his immediate retraction of the word heresy. Last week he said that he should have spoken instead of "theological error". Clergy in favour of women's ordination have welcomed his statement and are anticipating rumbustious general synod meetings as the proposal nears the deciding vote in 1992.

However, Canon Peter Naylor, who has worked in the Canterbury diocese for 16 years, said: "I think he is also wise to use words like theological error because it is almost the same thing. Whatever we believe, we must not condemn one another. What disappoints me about him is that he is not acting in a charitable way. He is taking a rather firm line. I think he has made an error of judgment."

"I have not made up my mind what to do, but I am obviously disturbed by remarks like that. I have been talking to three of my colleagues on the telephone because we are concerned about it. We think it is a foolish thing to say, at a time when he is about to take up a very difficult job."

The dean of Canterbury, and about 30 residential canons and honorary canons meet on Wednesday to elect Dr Carey under the 1533 Appointment of Bishops Act. The election procedure is considered by many to be an unnecessary formality.

Fr Peter Geldard, who represents Canterbury on the synod and is chairman of the synod's Catholic Group, said that the result was a foregone conclusion. "Some are saying that although it is rather an archaic procedure it still has a value and this is a classic case in point. If some people want to express concern, it is the only opportunity they have."

He said that he had not encouraged anyone to vote against Dr Carey, but the heresy statement had upset wide body of opinion. "I don't think one should become so identified with a cause and castigate the opposition as he did."

The Rev John Macquarrie, former professor of divinity at

Oxford university, said on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday programme*: "Certainly it is an unfortunate start because it does seem to indicate an authoritarian, dogmatic style of worship which I think Anglicans do not like."

Britain's first "Anglican-Catholic" church opened yesterday in a building bought by the parishioners of a former Church of England vicar.

Fr Leslie Hamlett, aged 58, caused a controversy eight years ago when he defected from the Church of England taking his congregation with him. His departure followed a dispute in which he opposed changes, including the remarriage of divorced clergy and the proposed ordination of women.

After years of worshipping in hired halls, the former vicar of All Saints Bank in Staffordshire now has a redundant Methodist chapel at Madeley Heath, near Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. It will be known as St Mary and St John's and was blessed yesterday by an American bishop from the new International Communion of Traditional Churches, an alternative Anglican body.

Fr Hamlett said: "This is the first Anglican-Catholic church in Britain, but there are now 500 of them worldwide. I would like to see one in every town and city in Britain."



Tailor makes final touches being made to a set of robes for Dr George Carey, the Archbishop-designate of Canterbury, which has been commissioned from Mrs Juliet Hemmings, of Bristol, who works with a team of eight. Diary, page 10

Car firms call for Japanese curb

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE'S six biggest car-makers face streamlining and job cutbacks, with sales expected to decline by 500,000 this year and Japanese manufacturers pushing for a larger share of the market.

Ford, General Motors, Volkswagen, Renault, Peugeot-Citroen and Fiat are warning European Community leaders that an influx of Japanese imports after the opening-up of the single market will be their most potent challenge. The warning comes at a time when they believe new car sales will fall to 12.5 million from 13.1 million in 1990.

As industry leaders gather today at the Geneva Motor Show, they will renew their call for a transitional period of limited controls on Japanese imports while European

manufacturers improve productivity.

With total sales held back by recession across the world, analysts say that those lost to Japanese rivals will force European manufacturers to close plants. Rob Golding, of Warburg Securities in London, said: "Some of the European car-makers are going to lose market share and those that are heavily dependent on their domestic markets, like Fiat in Italy and Peugeot and Renault in France, will particularly suffer."

The Japanese threat is intensified by Honda, Toyota and Nissan investing between them £1.5 billion in "transplant" manufacturing facilities in Britain capable of making 500,000 cars a year by the mid-1990s. Mazda, Ja-

pan's fourth largest motor producer, is also understood to be looking for a British site for assembling 100,000 cars annually.

Jacques Calvet, president of Peugeot SA, is demanding a 10-year transitional period before Japanese cars are allowed free access to Europe.

He told the Economist Intelligence Unit in a report published today: "It will give the European manufacturers the chance to increase their productivity to the extent that it will be able to compensate for the economic and social differences which currently penalise Europe's manufacturers compared with their Japanese equivalent."

Japanese cars are allowed only 3 per cent of the new car market in France, while Italy operates even stricter controls.

In Britain, sales of are limited to about 11 per cent by voluntary agreement.

Even Rover, in which Honda has a shareholding, now supports a transition period. George Simpson, managing director, told the EIU: "Most of the Japanese setting up plants in the UK have mentioned figures of 20 to 30 per cent of output being directed at our home market. This is going to make things much more competitive for everyone but particularly for Rover."

The gun battle, the largest of its kind since an attack on a border checkpoint at Derry in Co Fermanagh in December 1989 during which two soldiers were killed, lasted 15 minutes but no one was injured on either side.

In what police said was the first incident of its kind, a

That attack follows at least two attempts at shooting down army helicopters in and around Crossmaglen in recent weeks, one of which forced an emergency landing, and an assault on an army observation post 10 days ago.

During that exchange near Silverbridge, also close to Crossmaglen, up to 12 IRA men are thought to have been involved, firing hundreds of machine gun rounds and two mortars, one of which failed to explode.

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Trials back 'old' heart drug

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE largest medical trial ever held has concluded that a 30-year-old drug is safer and just as effective in treating heart-attack patients as two far more expensive modern ones.

The study, co-ordinated by medical research scientists from Oxford university, compared three "clot-busting" drugs used to dissolve blood clots in the arteries of heart-attack victims and restore normal blood flow. The results, based on 46,000 patients in 20 countries, were presented at the annual scientific meeting of the American Institute of Cardiology in Atlanta, Georgia.

They will add fuel to arguments between the San Francisco-based Genentech company and the Anglo-American SmithKline Beecham. Genentech has complained that SmithKline has used the results of the study in unfair

comparisons of its own Eptanase clot-buster with Genentech's Activase, which at present has a 60 per cent share of the US heart-attack drug market.

Last Thursday a Federal judge in San Francisco refused to grant Genentech a temporary restraining order against SmithKline's advertisements, saying that it had failed to prove it was likely to be damaged by them.

Activase, however, was not one of the drugs compared in the survey, known as ISIS-3. The comparison was between a drug similar to Activase but made in Britain by Wellcome, SmithKline's Emboase, and a much older drug, Streptokinase, sold by the German company Hoechst.

According to Rory Collins, one of the organisers of the one of the organisers of the trial, all three drugs are effective at reducing mortality

after a heart attack, but Streptokinase has fewer side-effects and is much cheaper. The study concludes: "Streptokinase is safer since both APSAC (the scientific name of the SmithKline drug) and tPA (the Wellcome drug) caused significantly more strokes from bleeding into the brain."

The summary of the report refers indirectly to Genentech's Activase, noting that a drug similar to tPA is currently "the most widely used clot-buster in the US".

"If US physicians began to use streptokinase routinely instead, this might avoid hundreds of strokes a year and it would save more than \$100 million [\$50 million] a year," the summary says. A single treatment using Activase costs \$2,200 (£1,100), while Emboase costs \$1,700 (£850) and Streptokinase \$200 (£100).

Shall I compare thee to a crater on Venus?

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR



Gertrude Stein: name given to a crater

A ROSE is a rose is a rose is a rose, but a hole in the ground may be Gertrude Stein.

Astronomers naming the hundreds of new features on the surface of Venus which have been discovered by the Magellan spacecraft are running out of women's names. Convention dictates that every recognisable feature on the planet should be named after a woman, who must have been dead for at least three years.

They have already named a group of three craters after Gertrude Stein, the American experimental writer and self-styled genius best remembered for her enigmatic remark about roses. The craters are vast — the smallest of them is more than five miles across — but whether

Miss Stein would have been flattered is open to doubt.

Other distinguished Americans whose names will live for ever on the surface of Venus include the anthropologist Margaret Mead, the novelist Pearl Buck, the playwright Lillian Hellman, the environmentalist Rachel Carson, and the all-round celebrity Clare Boothe Luce. The British list is shorter, with Mary Queen of Scots making a tentative entry.

So far, names for 100 craters have been proposed to the International Astronomical Union, whose job it is to label the many interesting features distinguished by Magellan's radar mapping. By the time Magellan has finished its work, another 1,000 names will be needed.

"The name bank is running low," admits Gerald Schaber, of the US Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Arizona. "We're running out of goddesses."

Candidates so far have been selected from a database of approved names, which include scientists, poets, ballet dancers, and royalty of many nations. There is nothing to stop anyone who wants to from suggesting further names. "They just have to be famous, they don't have to be good," says Schaber.

Suggestions, and evidence that the candidate is a worthy one, should be sent to Joel Russell at the US Geological Service, Flagstaff, Arizona. Living women are excluded.



Mary Queen of Scots: tentative entry

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هكز امن الاشمل

Heseltin
and the
environment

Pesticides
for wildlife

Soft porn
publishers
make £20m

Heseltine sets dates and targets for environment results

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, has begun a systematic pursuit of all the 352 green policy objectives in the environment white paper, produced last September by his predecessor, Chris Patten, which range from countryside and agriculture policy to energy and transport.

Rather than picking certain areas as priorities, Mr Heseltine has taken the entire list and turned every objective into a target, with a specific date for its attainment. He will carry out the sensitive task of encouraging the efforts of his colleagues in other departments in a new committee, which he will chair, of the "green ministers" each department has appointed. Mr Heseltine declines to talk specifically of the new committee, but *The Times* has learned that its first meeting will be on Thursday. However, in an interview with *The Times* Mr Heseltine did speak at length of his ambitions for environmental policy, and was quick to scotch the idea that the reform of the poll tax is devouring all his political energies. He said: "I am in a no-win situation with the community charge. Public opinion is that I am absolutely bogged down, morning, noon and night. If I say, that's not true, half the population say:

Michael Heseltine spells out to Michael McCarthy an action plan for his environment objectives

well, you ought to be. If I say it is true, the other half say I'm neglecting my other departmental responsibilities. The truth is, I am far from being bogged down. We are making progress as much with the environment as with local government."

His principal concern is following up Mr Patten's white paper, criticised by environmental pressure groups on publication last autumn for being insufficiently radical. Mr Heseltine rebuts the criticism. "I have a huge regard for Chris Patten's white paper. To get a comprehensive list of objectives across the whole face of the environment, which becomes the base for government policy, is an enormous step forward."

"It puts a floor underneath what can happen. You cannot sink below it; it is only possible for governments to improve things. By defining areas where advance can take place, it imposes discipline. You can never unpublish it: people will always be able to say, you said in paragraph so-and-so you would do such a thing... what have you done?"

There are 352 such paragraphs making commitments, ranging from the introduction of energy-efficiency labelling on electrical appliances, to the introduction of the theme of "environment and society" into the national curriculum. Mr Heseltine has turned onto that vast corpus of policy his enthusiasm for management science. "I am not saying with the white paper, there are three or four things here I want to achieve. I am saying I want a checklist of all the

proposals, as targets and dates, and let us get going across the board."

The specific target dates will not be published, however. "No manager would give such a million hostages to fortune. If you got to the stage of publishing such things, you would put in lax targets that you could easily achieve, and a timescale you could not fail to meet. But I have got my own monitoring process."

Mr Heseltine is only too well aware that the programme will involve the work of other powerful government departments, jealous of their own prerogatives, yet he does not foresee a succession of cabinet battles, and his attitude hints at encouragement rather than confrontation.

"Every secretary of state knows he has two or three battles in him that he can fight and win. He has to know which ones to choose. If he fights them all there will be a time when he just uses up his credibility. Colleagues are colleagues, and they're not in the business of being constantly under fire."



Battle headquarters: Ickworth, the Marquess of Bristol's seat, where he will fight for permission to build two golf courses on the estate

Village split as marquess takes a swing at business

By MICHAEL HORNSMILL

THE colourful Marquess of Bristol, whose eccentric habits have long been an object of curiosity among his fellow villagers in deepest Suffolk, has stirred fresh controversy with a plan to spend half his £20 million fortune building a vast leisure complex on his 4,000-acre estate.

Residents of the medieval village of Horringer, which evolved to serve

his forebears at Ickworth, the family seat, are deeply divided over the proposals.

Lord Bristol, aged 36, who was deported from Australia last year for smuggling conviction and then fined £3,000 in Britain for possessing heroin and cocaine, wants to build a five-star, 80-bed hotel, two 18-hole golf courses, and conference facilities, together with restaurants, bars

and shops. The development could deprive David Cornwell, the principal tenant farmer, of his livelihood and grade-II listed home. "We have been kept in the dark about what is being proposed, except that the farmhouse will become the hotel's administration block," he said.

Sir Reginald Harland, chairman of Suffolk Preservation Trust, is also against the proposal. "This is a specially preserved piece of landscape,

and we are trying to keep the country as the country," he said. However, in the public bar at The Six Bells in the village, many expressed support. "The plan is bound to bring a few jobs," Kenneth Sadler, aged 75, said. Crispin Vaughan, project manager, said: "Developed as proposed, with trees and landscaping, the area will resemble more what existed in the 18th and 19th centuries than is the case today."



Heseltine: "Let us get going across the board"

Pesticides blamed for wildlife decline

By JOHN YOUNG

INTENSIVE and increasing use of pesticides in cereal fields is threatening many birds, animals, plants and insects, according to a study by the Game Conservancy.

The species depend on the ecological balance in cereal fields for their survival, said Dick Potts, deputy director of the conservancy, in a report on the study carried out in Sussex.

The study, to be published shortly, showed that the cereal ecosystem was "far from the man-made desert imagined by some conservationists", Mr Potts said.

Most of the species the fields contain have greatly declined and are still declining, he added.

More than 700 million hectares (2,000 million acres) of

the Earth's land surface is devoted to cereal crops, he said. Britain has four million hectares (10 million acres), about 17 per cent of its land area and 16 times the total size of all its nature reserves.

Although, compared with many other countries, the British soil and climate are not naturally suited to grain production, cereals have been grown here for at least 7,000 years, and distinct associated flora and fauna have evolved.

Man-made chemicals called halocarbons, similar to chlorofluorocarbons, blamed for damaging the ozone layer, are responsible for the decline of conifers throughout forests in Europe and North America, according to Hartmut Frank of the university of Tübingen, Germany.

Soft porn publishers make £20m

Publishers of glossy sex magazines made more than £20 million in pre-tax profits last year, with the owners of the ten major companies receiving six and seven-figure salaries, the trade union body Labour Research says.

The largest profit, £5.8 million, was made by Paul Raymond Publications, whose chairman, Paul Raymond, was paid £275,000. The largest salary was paid to David Sullivan, director of Roldvale Ltd, who was paid £1,100,720. Roldvale's pre-tax profit in 1989 was £3.1 million.

Labour Research said that by comparison Marks & Spencer's chief executive earned £620,000 last year from company sales of £5.6 billion.

Friends drown

A car that plunged into the Royal Military Canal near Dymchurch, Kent, was being driven by Emma Blanche, aged 16, police said yesterday. She and her friend Andrew Lilley, aged 20, were drowned.

Death enquiry

Detectives were questioning a man yesterday after a 37-year-old woman was found dead at her home in Swindon and her 13-year-old daughter was stabbed in the leg.

Sunken trolleys

British Waterways frogmen have recovered more than 40 shopping trolleys, worth £2,000, from a 200-yard stretch of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal in Bingley, West Yorkshire.

Bang goes a plotter's birthplace

By RODNEY HOBSON

THE recession has caught up with Guy Fawkes. The remains of his birthplace are up for sale, a victim of the fall in the tourist trade.

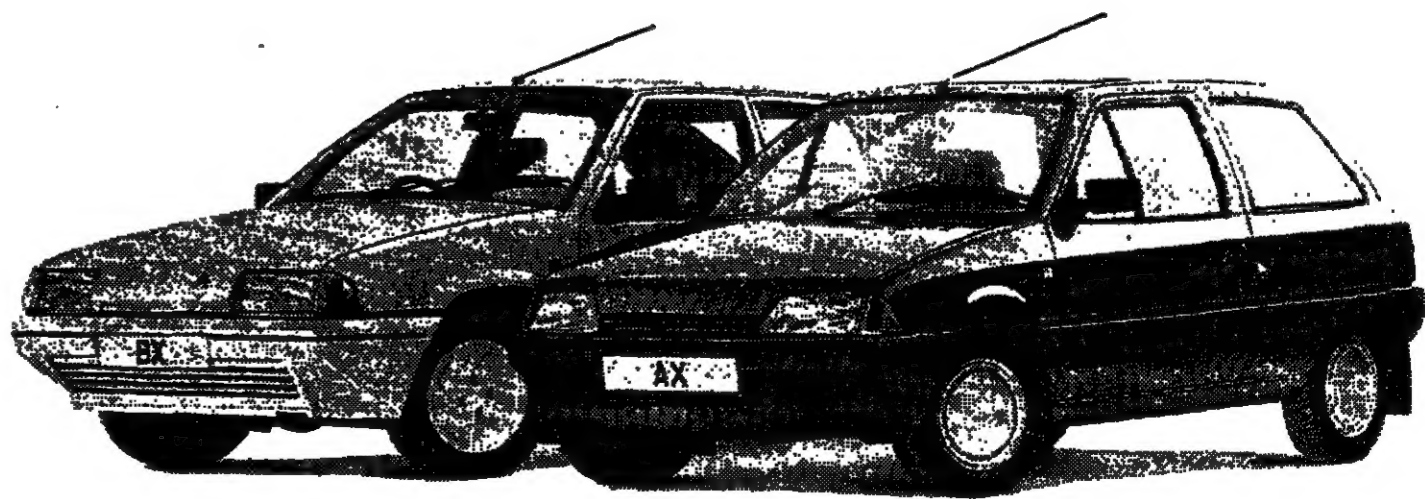
Young's Hotel in York, which incorporates the cottage where Fawkes was born in 1570, has joined the list of businesses being disposed of by receivers.

Oliver Paine, who is handling the sale from the Leeds office of the commercial estate agents Weatherall, Green and Smith, says: "The York city records show that Fawkes was born in a small cottage at the rear of what is now the hotel. The register does not indicate how long he lived there."

Mr Paine says there are clear signs in the hotel's outbuildings that parts date to the 16th century.

Despite his involvement with the Roman Catholic conspirators who attempted to blow up Parliament in 1605, Fawkes was born into a prominent Yorkshire Protestant family. He was the only son of Edward Fawkes, an advocate at the consistory court of the Archbishop of York. When his father died, his mother married a Roman Catholic and Fawkes subsequently became a convert. He was executed in January 1606.

Young's Hotel is a grade two listed building. It stands in Petergate within sight of York Minster. Mr Paine hopes the four-storey building will fetch £500,000.



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Iraqis reap the whirlwind as Desert Rats storm in

THE day after the Gulf war ended, a pair of Soviet-made Frog missiles, huge tracked rockets stuffed with high explosive, were installed before the tent of Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, commanding officer of the 7th Armoured Brigade. All around the compound were other pieces of captured equipment, much of it never used in battle: an anti-aircraft cannon, armoured troop carriers, a Soviet tank or two. The message was clear enough: in less than four days of non-stop action, the present version of the illustrious Desert Rats had routed a substantially larger enemy force in a whirlwind campaign.

When the shooting finally stopped, 7th Brigade was deep inside Kuwait, astride the important road junction next to its present encampment. By then it had destroyed about 90 Iraqi tanks (more than a third of those ranged against it), some 80 armoured vehicles and around 30 artillery pieces. More than 2,800 prisoners had been taken and Iraq was estimated to have lost around 120 men in combat with brigade units. Brigadier Cordingley lost four of his own men, with 15 wounded: a toll that would have been dismissed as utterly improbable when he was given the task of breaking through the Iraqi right flank and surging eastwards towards Kuwait and the main enemy forces.

In retrospect, 7th Brigade's crushing victory, small in proportion to the

In less than four days of non-stop action, the 7th Armoured Brigade overwhelmed a much larger force. Philip Jacobson analyses the victory

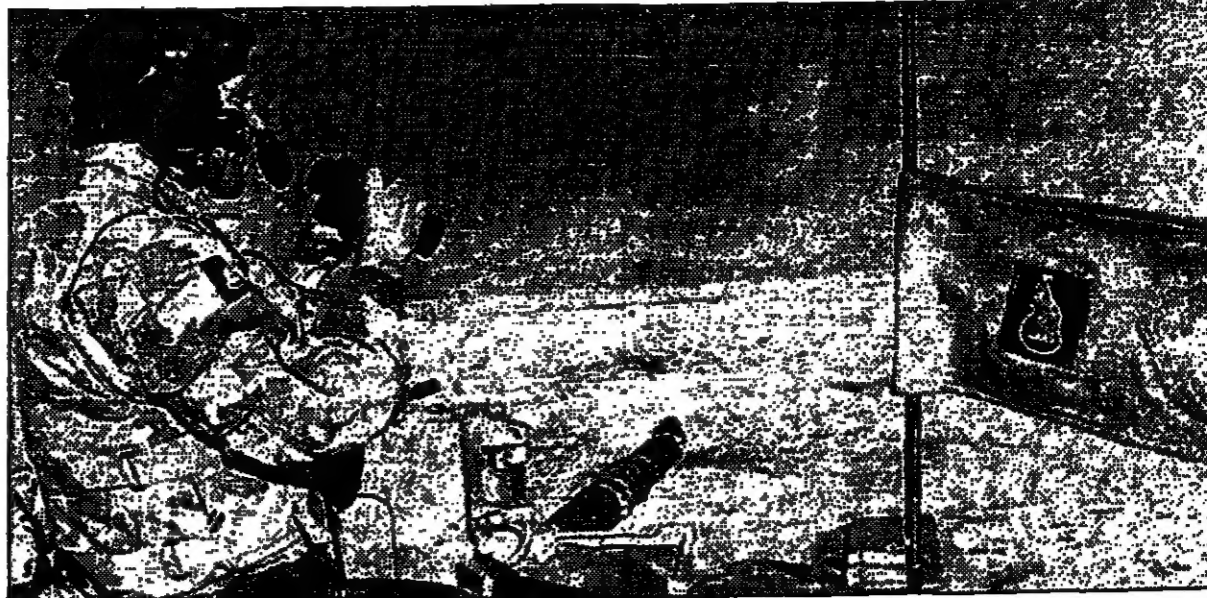
overall campaign, but none the less dazzlingly achieved, was inevitable when the huge Challenger tanks of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the tough infantrymen of the Staffordshire Regiment first made contact with the enemy and found Iraqi surrendering as soon as firing began. But without the calculated and sustained aggression of the three battle groups, supported by artillery bombardments of overwhelming intensity, the momentum of an assault that covered about 150 miles in an almost unbroken series of thrusts could not have been sustained.

For Brigadier Cordingley, whose affable manner conceals a fierce pride in his brigade and an ever fiercer impatience with sloppiness, the key to success was, in his own phrase, "going in hard and never letting up". At pre-battle briefings he always emphasised that this would reduce casualties and eventually demoralise even the best enemy formations. Now, folding his long legs beneath a bench in his cramped command post, he peppered an account of the short, sharp campaign with recollections of "lambasting" artillery barrages, of

the moment when he sent more than 100 Challengers, 60 Warrior fighting vehicles and all his self-propelled guns pouring forward line abreast, of the surging adrenaline produced by combat and the sadness at the loss of human life.

With his quietly spoken chief of staff, Major Euan Loudon beside him, a creased campaign map clipped to the bulkhead, Brigadier Cordingley spoke of his joy when General Rupert Smith, the commander of the 1st British Armoured Division, chose his troops to go first through the breach in Iraq's defensive wall. "We've been here since October and I'm sure all the guys felt, like me, that we had earned the honour."

From that moment, rolling into their jump-off positions, the dawn realisation that Iraq's 12th Armoured Division might be swiftly hammered into defeat pushed eating, sleeping and washing into the back seat. Over the brigade radio net on the first day of the British attack, we heard Brigadier Cordingley, Major Loudon and their command staff urging units to keep moving, keep manoeuvring, keep the pressure on an enemy that had absorbed a fearful battering from allied aircraft.



Master of all he surveys: Brigadier Patrick Cordingley scanning the desert horizon from his Challenger tank

Every report of taking prisoners, destruction of the hopelessly outclassed T55 tanks confronting the Challengers, the devastating impact of artillery barrages, seemed to reinforce their conviction that the moment was there to be seized.

Although Brigadier Cordingley frankly concedes that considerations of enemy casualties could not influence his strategic decisions, it was clear from the radio conversations that he and his senior commander sought, where feasible, to minimise the bloodshed. Tanks were sometimes instructed to fire what amounted to warning shots to convince the Iraqis to give

up, and on one occasion a psychological warfare team from the US Army was called in to broadcast a surrender offer in Arabic to a position that had suffered a shattering night artillery barrage. About 400 men immediately capitulated.

"I think it was at that moment that we realised for sure we were up against troops who were simply unwilling to continue fighting for a cause they did not accept," Brigadier Cordingley recalled. By then, Major Loudon chipped in, the brigade knew it was not facing first-rate formations, but the possibility that the Republican Guard might counter-attack as the ad-

vance continued into Kuwait had always to be taken into account.

For the first time, too, there were intelligence reports of T62 and T72 tanks heading the brigade's way: as if to banish any complacency, the Staffords ran into stiff resistance, coming under machinegun, mortar and anti-tank fire. It was then that the brigade's first combat death occurred. "A very sad moment, but who can explain what makes some troops stand firm when others are jacking it in?" Brigadier Cordingley mused.

On the third day of fighting, with reconnaissance units of the 16th/5th Lancs and Queen's Dragoon

Guards ranging ahead of the main brigade force, what the military calls a "blue on blue" incident, when an American tank fired on one of the support vehicles and wounded two soldiers, plunged the command staff into gloom. "These things happen in war, especially during rapid manoeuvring, but we were all awfully depressed," Brigadier Cordingley said.

"Even the weather seemed to be against us, with huge dark clouds producing a sort of end-of-the-world black shroud overhead." By now, a diplomatic initiative to halt the war was on the cards, and the brigade received orders to hold in position in

anticipation of a ceasefire instead of preparing to attack another objective. "That meant the chance to get our heads down, which sounded wonderful," Major Loudon said. Two hours later sleep was destroyed by new instructions to advance to Point Cobalt, 27 miles away. With two hours left to cover the ground, the entire brigade went thundering forward as one and was in place with 30 minutes to spare.

When the provisional ceasefire was finally confirmed, 7th Brigade was put to destroying as much enemy equipment as possible and rounding up every Iraqi soldier in sight. "It was a time of great exhilaration, mixed with the awfulness of coming across so many Iraqi bodies in cold blood, so to speak, and seeing their tanks and vehicles smashed to bits. Remember, very few of us had ever experienced combat, let alone on this scale."

A couple of hours after Brigadier Cordingley concluded his account of 7th Brigade's war, he gathered his colonels to welcome Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere, commander of the British contingent. It was a moment for private emotions, so they gathered out of sight in the canteen. When Sir Peter came scurrying out to catch his helicopter, there was just enough time for him to declare that the entire brigade had conducted itself with great distinction. "As everyone knew it would be in the name of the Desert Rats".

KUWAIT CITY

Palestinians rounded up amid fears of backlash

From LIN JENKINS in KUWAIT CITY

FEARS of a bloody backlash against Palestinians in Kuwait City were compounded yesterday when 400 were rounded up at gunpoint. Britons living in Kuwait, the Palestinian district of the city, said some were thrown into car boots by members of the Kuwaiti army. American soldiers watched, but did not get involved.

The incident follows several exchanges of fire in the area since liberation as some Kuwaitis pursue Palestinians in revenge for their alleged collaboration during the occupation. There are still some Iraqi soldiers holed up in houses. Royal Engineers were fired on by a sniper as they moved their base from the remains of the airport to an empty ambulance base.

Iraqi soldiers in hiding continued to be captured, and yesterday there was a report of

another street battle not far from the city centre as Iraqis and Palestinians attempted to evade capture by Kuwaitis.

Michael Weston, the British ambassador, has officially voiced his fears to the government and said that it was sadly predictable that President Saddam Hussein's one victory would be setting Kuwaitis against Palestinians.

"There is no proof that the Kuwaitis are doing anything more than they said they would do, rounding them up and questioning them to see who needs to be tried. It is very worrying. Emotions are running very high. It has always been our concern that this might happen and we have made our fears known on a regular basis," he said after meeting Tom King, the defence secretary, on a visit to Kuwait International airport.

With an estimated 400,000 Palestinians living in Kuwait there is little the government can do to prevent lawlessness. Nine ministers have now returned and Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, is said to be arriving within a week, but with disorder running at a high level no date has been set for the return of the emir.

Abdul Rahman al-Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, said collaborators would be given fair trials. "Kuwait has nothing against the Palestinians, except the few who are actually trying to disrupt this life. There are some hard feelings for the people who were seen helping the Iraqis. We can control 99 per cent of the emotion but we as a nation should help control the last 1 per cent."

Susan Abside, aged 31, a

Briton married to a Palestinian, said the community was terrified since no distinction was being made between those who helped the Iraqis and those who did not. "The Iraqis did to the Palestinians what they did to the Kuwaitis. Many Palestinians were picked up. It is terrible that we are going through this with the Kuwaitis after all that has happened. A lot of the Palestinians are loyal to Kuwait and helped in the resistance, but now the Kuwaitis seem out for blood. It is very scary."

Bill McDonald, aged 67, who has lived in the country for 33 years with his Lebanese wife, said: "I think there is going to be a massacre." He added that there was no doubt some Palestinians had betrayed Kuwaitis, giving the whereabouts of some of the 30-odd Britons who remained, and informed on the resistance. The trouble is, they do not seem to be distinguishing between the good ones and the bad ones. People are very frightened."



Goodbye to all that: an elderly POW after being freed by his US captors in Kuwait, Iraq

IRAQ

Baghdad recalls brigades

Riyadh - Iraq is moving two mechanised brigades from its northern borders towards Baghdad, possibly for use if fighting resumes, a senior allied officer said yesterday. The Iraqi units were almost within 60 miles of Baghdad, he said, and speculated the movements were designed to "protect the regime and to counter [a possible] resurgence" in allied attacks.

The withdrawal from the Turkish and Iranian border areas comes as the surviving remnants of President Saddam Hussein's army in southern Iraq creep north. These forces amounted to about a division's strength, but the men and materiel were from scattered units, he said. The largest unit to escape the war is believed to be a brigade.

One of the two mechanised brigades moving south belonged to Iraq's Republican Guard, the officer said. He believed Saddam was unlikely to bring these units into Baghdad itself for fear that they could be used in a coup attempt. (AP)

● BAGHDAD: Iraqi television yesterday released film of a smiling Saddam in his first televised appearance since early in the Gulf war. The 45-second videotape was filmed on Saturday at a meeting between Saddam and three aides to discuss restoring public services. (Reuters)

Desert forces praised by King

The Gulf - Tom King, the defence secretary, arrived in Bahrain, yesterday to congratulate British servicemen, and pledged that no ceasefire would be signed until their captured comrades were freed by the Iraqis. He thanked air crews and ground staff who kept them flying for their part in the war.

Mr King climbed to the top of a ladder normally used by pilots to get on board their planes to put across his message that peace terms were "not negotiable" at the ceasefire talks. "We are not going to have a ceasefire unless we get our POWs back," he said. Packed into a hangar, the men and women of the RAF heard him in silence.

After his visit to Bahrain, the defence secretary went on to see troops in Kuwait, where he told them they would be home soon. He said Operation Desert Storm was a "brilliantly organised... extraordinary campaign". Mr King is also to visit a Royal Navy warship and Saudi Arabia.

● Church censure Rome - The Catholic patriarch of Iraq, a key participant in a Vatican summit on the war, has accused the American-led allies of genocide and "the destruction of a nation". Raphael Iridawid, the Patriarch of the eastern Chaldean Rite, also insisted that Israel must be made to understand that Middle East peace was impossible without the establishment of a Palestinian homeland. (Reuters)

● PLO base raid Sides - At least four Palestinian fighters were injured as Israeli warplanes raided a base held by Fatah, the mainstream Palestinian Liberation Organisation group, in southern Lebanon, police and Palestinian sources said. It was the first Israeli raid on a Palestinian position in a region of southern Lebanon where the Lebanese army has been deployed since February 7. (AP)

RULING FAMILY

Crown Prince to go home

By MICHAEL KNIFE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

KUWAIT'S Crown Prince, Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, is to return to the emirate within a few days to head the reconstruction effort, said Abdul-Rahman al-Awadi, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, at the weekend.

The move is expected to head off criticism that the speed of the royal family's return has not matched the speed of its departure after the Iraq invasion in August. Dr al-Awadi said the Crown Prince would be followed later by Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the emir.



Waiting: The Emir of Kuwait three sections and were searching for mines. He said it would take at least three days to clear Kuwait City, perhaps longer, and longer still to clear outlying areas. He said authorities were worried that Kuwaitis heading home would drive off damaged roads and travel over unopened areas that could contain Iraqi mines.

The first Kuwaiti ministers to return were not named, but were believed to have included the ministers of defence, interior, transport and education, some of whom are members of the ruling family. A French army unit yesterday began clearing mines from Bayan palace, one of several residences used by the emir before the invasion. Earlier, mine-clearing and repair work began at the Dasmann and Sier palaces. Some of the heaviest fighting between Kuwaiti and Iraqi troops on August 2 occurred around the Dasmann palace.

Dr al-Awadi emphasised that the government had no plans to seek vengeance against Palestinians in the emirate. All those accused of collaboration would be brought to trial. He also repeated the emir's pledge to hold elections.

There are several reports that Iraqis set up tables in the streets loaded with guns to be distributed to the Palestinians shortly before they fled the city.

With Kuwait's population equally well armed, with children as young as 14 brandishing AK47s, the potential for bloodshed is high.

● TUNIS: The Palestine Liberation Organisation yesterday called for urgent measures to halt "aggressions, violations of rights and arrests" of Palestinians in Kuwait.

The organisation "considers that the Kuwaiti government and all Arab and international forces in Kuwait City should assume total responsibility for the protection of Palestinians", a PLO spokesman said.

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CASUALTIES

Enemy dead still uncounted

From SUSAN ELLICOTT in WASHINGTON

DESPITE reports of mass suicides of Iraqi troops after the 100-hour allied land assault, the Pentagon says it cannot give the exact number of enemy dead.

Saudi Arabia has estimated Iraq's military casualties and fatalities at 80,000 to 100,000, while General Norman Schwarzkopf has described the likely body count only as "a very, very large number".

The media in America has been saying for days in reports approved by military censors that President Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard suffered a blistering defeat. But the Pentagon is anxious to avoid the mistake it made in Vietnam by providing a running tally of enemy dead since this was largely responsible for public disapproval.

Few pictures emerged of the

bloodshed in the Gulf as information officers in the Middle East directed photographers during the height of the war to the dramatic sight of tens of thousands of Iraqi prisoners of war.

Military experts, noting that General Schwarzkopf said thousands of Iraqi tanks had been destroyed, expect Iraqi dead to number between 50,000 and 100,000.

Air power paves way to victory on the ground

A battered and demoralised enemy was testimony to the vital role of allied bombing in bringing the war to a swift end, Michael Evans writes

ALTHOUGH the war to liberate Kuwait was finally brought to a close by the mobility, ferocity, firepower and tactical manoeuvring of the allied armoured divisions, the principal roles in the 42-day battle for Kuwait were played by the bombers and strike helicopters. They reduced President Saddam Hussein's army to a state of terror, hunger and demoralisation.

Every aircraft involved in the allied bombing campaign, since the early hours of January 17, contributed to the overwhelming defeat. Although military spokesmen gave bomb damage assessments in daily bulletins, the real impact of the bombing became apparent only as the first allied tanks drove through Iraqi defences into Kuwait. They found abandoned foxholes, bodies by the thousands, burnt-out ar-

moured vehicles, on the road to Basra provided proof that the Iraqis were desperate to leave the battlefield. There were fears at the time that they might try to regroup, but such fears proved groundless.

The only aircraft which had a "disappointing" war were the air defence fighters, such as the RAF's Tornado F3s. They carried out combat air patrols throughout the war but seldom encountered their Iraqi counterparts. Knowing that he might lose his air force if he engaged in dogfights with American F15s, F16s and British Tornado F1s, one of Saddam's first

decisions was to dispatch his best fighters to Iran, removing his MiG29 Fulcrums and Mirage F1s from the theatre of operations.

But the allied bomber force, from the old reliables like the B52s and the tank-busting A10 Thunderbolts, to the most advanced F117A stealth fighters, performed with devastating effect. Only one B52 was lost, as it returned from a mission to its base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Another B52 was forced to shed its bomb payload in the Mediterranean.

The allied aircraft which suffered the most losses were the RAF's Tornado GR1s. They had the most dangerous mission of all, flying in below 100ft to drop JP233 "runway denial" bombs on air bases. Seven of the strike aircraft were lost, six of them in combat,

although not all were lost during low-flying raids. The total number of allied aircraft lost was 46 out of more than 2,100.

The breakdown of losses, including helicopters, was: in combat, 27 US fixed-wing aircraft, five US helicopters and nine allied aircraft; in non-combat, eight US fixed-wing aircraft, 14 helicopters, and two allied fixed-wing aircraft.

Soon after the air campaign began, senior military sources expressed confidence that Saddam would be defeated because the allies achieved air superiority after three or four days, and air supremacy soon after. Once Iraq's air force gave up the fight, it was only a question of time before its ground forces would be defeated. In saving part of his air force, Saddam sacrificed his army.

TV team arrives London - Four CBS television newsmen arrived in Britain after 41 days of Iraqi captivity and went straight into hospital for two to three days of medical checks. The four were released in Baghdad on Saturday. They had been picked up by an Iraqi army patrol on the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on January 21 and "interrogated closely" on why they were in a military area. (Reuters)

Street cred

Jerusalem - The city's deputy mayor, Emanuel Zisman, wants to name a street after General Norman Schwarzkopf, but the American commander fails to qualify: he is alive. Municipal policy says a person must be dead for three years before such an honour can be awarded. (AP)

UNITED STATES

Baker puts Arab-Israel dispute top of agenda

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, signalled yesterday that he will press Israel this week to come up with a plan to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict but emphasised that Washington is prepared to help only if both sides are committed to peace.

As Mr Baker prepared to meet leaders of Israel and Arab states loyal to the US-led anti-Iraq coalition this week, he said that he had "a gut feeling this conflict is one that both sides would now like to see resolved". He added that an American proposal would be "shot up like a Scud missile with a couple of Patriots. We have said many times that we can be effective as a catalyst. But they've got to want a solution."

Mr Baker will travel to Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Israel, Turkey and the Soviet Union this week to discuss regional security in the Middle East, arms control and proliferation and economic co-operation. In an interview with NBC News, Mr Baker said he would also ask America's Arab allies what role they would like Washington to play in a permanent peace-keeping force in the region. He said it was "not unreasonable at all to talk about an enhanced US naval presence", but he emphasised President Bush's view that American ground forces should return home as soon as possible and that the bulk of a peace-

keeping team should be made up of Arab troops.

He expressed a hope that the end of the Gulf war presented a favourable backdrop against which to work for a resolution of the conflict. American-brokered efforts to resolve the conflict collapsed almost one year ago, bringing extra tension to difficult US-Israeli relations. The failure was also seen as a personal blow to Mr Baker.

President Bush's prestige among Arabs and Israelis as a result of the successful conclusion of the war against Iraq has enhanced his administration's bargaining power in the region. Mr Baker, speaking on Friday at his first news conference since the Gulf ceasefire, said that he wanted to "move fast" to address long-standing problems in the Middle East, especially the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Mr Baker, speaking on NBC news, said: "We've done everything in the region a great favour, including the Israelis. We ought to try to take advantage of those opportunities... but we're not in a position to impose peace."

He also suggested that Washington would rely on King Hussein of Jordan as it explored a "two-track approach" to enable the Israelis and Palestinians to start a dialogue to help Israel and the Arab states to improve diplomatic relations.

The Jordanian monarch annoyed Washington during the Gulf war, but he is a likely spokesman for Palestinians in a potential dialogue since Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, lost credibility among Arab leaders during the Gulf crisis.

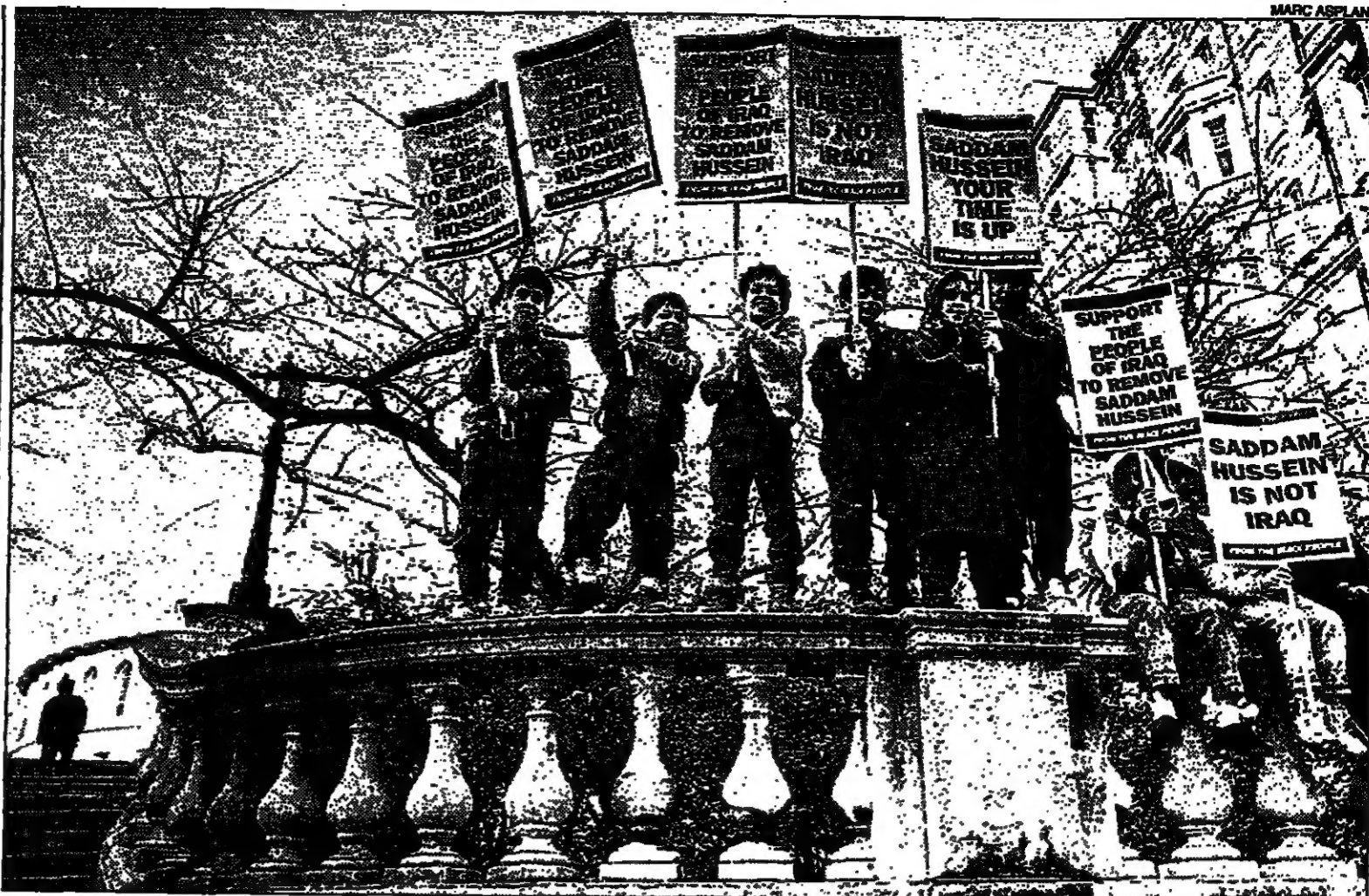
Mr Baker said regional allies had told him that the PLO chairman was "seriously and severely hurt", but added that he was "not a player or a party in the 14 months of (peace) efforts we made before" the Iraqi invasion. National polls in America show that public expectations of Mr Baker's trip are high. In the wake of the allied military success against Iraq, a majority of Americans hope to see Washington achieve some lasting results in the Middle East, including a peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, Arab nations being persuaded to recognise Israel's right to exist.

Mr Baker has made it clear that he regards the dispute between Arabs and Israelis as "a truly intractable problem through many years".

America's euphoria is tempered with a growing fear that the decisive defeat of Iraq may over-inflate national confidence and public support for US intervention overseas.



Baker: sees opportunity to break the deadlock



Generation of protest: children among the 300 Iraqi expatriates who staged a silent march from Speakers' Corner to the steps of the Albert Memorial yesterday (Robin Young writes). Many carried black banners, mourning the dead in the

Gulf war. Others held placards calling for support for the Iraqi people in overthrowing President Saddam Hussein. "The Iraqi people are totally against Saddam Hussein," said Delair Adib, aged 30. "But since the Baath party came to

power, Iraq has been a police state with Saddam's secret police everywhere. We want to show that Saddam is not the true Iraq. We are all Iraqis with one thing in common. We want to see Saddam out of our country." Among the demonstrators

was Abdul Karim al-Uzri, aged 80, a former Iraqi minister of finance. A Home Office spokesman said yesterday that 164 Iraqis and 12 others had been served with notices of intention to deport since the invasion of Kuwait last August.

UNITED NATIONS

Ceasefire terms keep open option of renewed war

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE UN Security Council spelt out the terms for a permanent ceasefire in the Gulf at the weekend, leaving open the possibility of a resumption of hostilities if they are not fulfilled by Iraq. The council voted 11-1, with three abstentions, to impose conditions on Iraq, including the release of all prisoners of war and civilian detainees and the return of plundered Kuwait property.

Describing the resolution, number 686, as a watershed, Thomas Pickering, the US ambassador, said: "Aggression has been beaten, firmly and decisively." The US-drafted resolution combined conditions laid down by President Bush when he announced the suspension of hostilities on Wednesday with demands that Iraq implements all 12 previous security council resolutions on Kuwait.

Rather than declaring a formal ceasefire, the resolution lays down conditions for achieving one, leaving the initiative with the coalition rather than with the council. That left several nations unhappy, and the resolution passed with fewer votes than any of the earlier resolutions, which all obtained the support of at least 12 members.

Cuba cast the only negative vote after unsuccessfully proposing 18 amendments calling for an immediate ceasefire, the dispatch of UN military observers, and new efforts by the UN secretary-general to re-establish peace and security in the region.

China was the only one of the five permanent members of the council to abstain. Yemen, the only Arab member of the council, and India, which joined after Resolution 678 authorising the use of force was adopted, also abstained. Some Third World delegates described the American draft disparagingly as the "surrender resolution".

After dictating ceasefire terms to Iraq, the resolution warns that resolution 678 remains in effect until they are fulfilled, so that the allies can legally resume hostilities. But it also contains a commitment to maintain the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq and notes that the coalition plans to remove its forces as soon as possible. Taking note of Iraq's acceptance of all 12 security council resolutions, the text says that means Baghdad must rescind its annexation of Kuwait and accept in principle its liability for war damages. It demands

that Iraq return prisoners of war immediately as well as any looted Kuwaiti property, and insists that it release all detained Kuwaitis and stop any further military action.

The resolution also requires Iraq to return the remains of the fallen and assist coalition forces in identifying mines, booby traps and chemical and biological weapons.

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EGYPT

Mubarak looks for a new dawn

FROM REUTER IN CAIRO

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt said yesterday the end of the Gulf war had brought "a new dawn" in the Middle East and he called on Arabs to join a new world order based on peace, democracy and economic competition. Egyptians had no quarrel with the Iraqi people and would help to rebuild their country.

He accused President Saddam Hussein of ordering his army to commit suicide "while he was hiding in his bunker" and said the world would never forgive him. "A

page has been turned and a new page begun. The days of darkness have gone and a new dawn risen before us. The horrible tragedy has ended. Kuwait has been liberated," Mr Mubarak said in a one-hour televised speech.

"From this platform I call on the fellow Iraqi people, to the Iraqi army and to all those upon whom this war was forced... The Egyptian people are the brothers of the Iraqi people, and this brotherhood will not be wiped out by the act of one individual."

Disaster threatens 40 poor nations

London — More than forty developing countries are facing the economic equivalent of a natural disaster because of the Gulf war, according to an independent report published today. Sixteen of the countries have lost between 2 and 25 per cent of their gross national product because of the war (Michael Knappe writes).

Six British aid agencies, which commissioned the report from the Overseas Development Institute, have asked the world community to provide assistance. Estimates of the direct cost of the conflict to the countries is said to be in excess of \$12 billion (£6.3 billion). The main problems include rising oil prices, higher transport and freight costs and their effect on prices. In addition hundreds of thousands of migrant workers have fled the Gulf.

Iran sends envoy

Nicosia — Iran said it was sending its ambassador back to Kuwait. President Rafsanjani said relations with Gulf Arab states were entering an era of co-operation. He added that Iran wanted security to be restored in the Gulf. (Reuters)

Assets freed

Paris — France has lifted its freeze on Kuwait's assets, according to an announcement published in the Official Journal. The decision was taken by Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister. Iraqi assets remain frozen. (AFP)

Synagogue blast

Mandala — Suspected pro-Iraqi radicals exploded a bomb outside a synagogue here. Israel's ambassador said it was an act of revenge for Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war. It was the third bomb attack here in six weeks. (Reuters)

Conference offer

Athens — Greece has offered to host a Middle East peace conference. It believes two conferences should be organised, one on the Palestinian issue and the other on regional problems. (AFP)

ISRAEL

Shamir reaffirms peace plan

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli government began outlining its postwar political strategy yesterday by reaffirming its 1989 peace initiative. The plan — which would lead, at best, to limited autonomy for the 1.6 million Arabs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip — has been rejected by the Palestinians, who want independence.

Still, Israel needs something on the table when James Baker, the American Secretary of State, visits Jerusalem during his Middle East tour. The White House has made it clear that with the Gulf war largely behind it, resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian problem is next on the agenda.

At yesterday's cabinet meeting, Yisrael Neuman, the science minister, urged the government to punish the Palestinians for their support of Iraq in the war by ending any efforts to make peace with them. Instead, he argued, Israel should try to get bilateral talks going with Saudi Arabia and, possibly, Kuwait. He argued that both nations could use Israel's technical know-how in reconstruction.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, won the backing of the majority of the cabinet to keep on the table his 1989 peace plan, but promised a debate on other proposals. Talks welcomed: Israel would be pleased to have direct talks with Saudi Arabia, with which it is officially still at war. Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said yesterday. (AFP)

GERMANY

Conflict forces policy review

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE outcome of the Gulf war is forcing a basic change in German foreign policy. Individually, Germans are paying more in cash towards its cost than taxpayers in any other country in the coalition. But senior politicians of all parties here are convinced that never again must the country be prepared only to offer its wealth as its contribution to the maintenance of justice in the world.

Although President Bush at the weekend praised Germany's willingness to pay, Bonn recognises that in Washington's eyes, Britain has regained European leadership as a result of sending a strong contingent to fight against President Saddam Hussein. Volker Rübe, the general secretary of the Christian

Democrats (CDU), said after returning from America at the weekend that a united Germany must undertake a greater responsibility for world policy. "We must understand that we can no longer simply say: 'Hold course as before'. We must ask ourselves if we ought to behave quite differently, like the French and British. Germany's reputation will depend in future not only on our financial strength, but also on how far we are ready to undertake international responsibility."

The key to the matter is Germany's Basic Law, which is widely interpreted as prohibiting the Bundeswehr from serving outside Nato territory. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, has accepted this interpretation by promising to

try to amend the constitution so that in future, Bundeswehr units will be able to serve under the UN flag anywhere in the world. Such an amendment would require a two-thirds majority of the Bundestag, which means that it must be supported by a significant number of members of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

Until now, the majority of SPD members have not been prepared to approve such a change, arguing that it is wrong for Germany to send troops abroad and that peace is better maintained by other means. That view inside the party is undergoing a radical change in the wake of the war, widely seen as having been necessary. Polls show that over 70 per cent of Germans

supported the military action against Saddam, which suggests that the SPD can no longer win votes by backing a "peace at any price" policy.

Günther Verheugen, a member of the party executive, will be put in charge of a special SPD working group today to study how to strengthen the UN in a way that will enable it to stand up to international lawbreakers. "If a reformed UN must take action against international lawbreakers using military means as a last resort, then the Germans cannot stand aside," he said in an interview with *Bild am Sonntag* yesterday. He added, however, that in such circumstances Germany should have a greater say inside the UN Security Council.

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Castro takes the low-tech road to socialism or death

From CHARLES BRENNER
IN NEW YORK

WHILE America has been busy dealing with a dictator on the other side of the world, President Castro, the nemesis in its own backyard, has been indulging in such fits of anti-American rage that Cuba watchers are wondering whether mania may finally be getting the better of him.

For months, Dr Castro has been pledging to his long-suffering people to continue down the road to "socialism or death" rather than succumbing to the evil of capitalism or following the "local mistakes" of his East European allies. "If they told me that 98 per cent of the people did not believe in the revolution, I would carry on fight-

ing," he proclaimed late last year, shortly before announcing that trained bulls and oxen would do the work of polluting tractors.

The arrangement, prompted by the drop in cheap Soviet oil supplies, is part of what Dr Castro calls his "peacetime special period" — a form of survival programme for "scientific socialism". Other elements include strict food rationing and the distribution of several hundred thousand Chinese bicycles to supplement cars on the streets of Havana.

Just days ago, with the hated Yanquis "butcher" the peace-loving Israeli people, as Dr Castro put it, he delivered an anti-American tirade that appeared to quash speculation that the supreme leader, aged 64, might consent to a

few market reforms when the party meets for a congress later this year. It will be the first such gathering since he stormed to power at the head of his revolution in 1959.

"Use capitalist methods? That would be crazy," Dr Castro told a Communist party meeting in Havana. "We ought to develop a vaccine against the madness that is capitalism." Capitalism, he said, had not been able to solve any human and social problems. Capitalist countries were a sea of prostitution, drug-addiction, social alienation or poverty. "Capitalism has nothing to offer the world." The United States and its emulators simply offered "every day more degeneracy, more sex, more vice, more violence".

In his desperation and isolation,

Dr Castro and his politburo have been resorting to ever more eccentric schemes to enforce the survival of pure socialism against the threats from within and without. He has repeatedly told visitors that he believes that the collapse of "socialism" in Eastern Europe was due to the mistake of allowing partial capitalist measures. "When you open the window, you let in not only fresh air but flies," he lectured a Chinese visitor about the mistakes of the Peking leadership.

Among the latest schemes are the promotion of pig-breeding by ordinary citizens and a plan to move the bulk of the population to the countryside where they are to grow their own food and live on their own. "Most of these inherently unworkable schemes are retreats

from the giddy 1960s, when they proved spectacular failures," said Roger Fontaine, a former member of the US National Security Council. "With the exception of Pol Pot's Cambodia, even the communist world has seen nothing quite like it." Dr Castro's pride and joy are its ambitious programmes of biomedical research. He hopes to make Cuba a world leader in hi-tech genetic products.

On top of his country's economic agony, inflicted since Soviet and East European subsidies withered to a fraction of their former level, Dr Castro is facing an image problem. Late last year, the Soviet press reported intimate details of his very secret private life and this month, an American-published biography has followed up with far

more lurid detail, including first-hand interviews with women, who claim to have been his bed partner.

According to a defuncting intelligence officer, the Cuban secret service went to inordinate lengths to prevent publication of *Guerrilla Prince: The Untold Story of Fidel Castro*, by George Anne Geyer. Ms Geyer, a veteran Cuba watcher, spent years digging into the mysteries of Dr Castro's life. She depicts the *jefe maximo* as manically obsessed with grandiose projects, rather than Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania was. Among them was making the best camembert and freezing Cuba entirely of weeds.

Dr Castro manages to preserve his power through a projection of a sense of mystery rather than the Wizard of Oz, Ms Geyer concludes.

Murder of minister shakes Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is facing a period of uncertainty after the assassination of the man who spearheaded the government's fight against the Tamil Tiger insurgents (James Pringle writes).

The murder of Ranjan Wijeratne, the deputy minister of defence, on Saturday in a car-bomb blast was a coup for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and a severe reverse for the government of President Premadasa.

Mr Wijeratne, aged 60, an MP for the ruling United National Party, wielded much more power than his junior defence portfolio, even with his task of overseeing the drive against the rebels, suggested Mr Wijeratne was in fact the president's second-in-command and hatchet man. A former tea planter, he was also the plantations and industry minister.

Tall, patrician, arrogant and blunt, he had an aura about him of ill-concealed menace. Of the Tigers, he liked to say: "We will wipe them off the face of the Earth." He was greatly disliked by Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tamil Tiger leader, whose own exploits include the murder of the mayor of Jaffna in 1976.

Obituary, page 12

Beach crash

Brisbane — A helicopter exploded in mid-air and crashed on a beach off eastern Australia, killing seven people, including six members of one family, police said. It is believed to be Australia's worst helicopter crash. (AP)

Satellite launch

The fifth geostationary European meteorological satellite, Meteosat-5, and the second Astra television satellite, Astra 1B, were put into orbit by the European rocket Ariane IV after two earlier attempts had been called off because of problems with the rocket.

Fans mourn

Paris — Hundreds of admirers, led by Jane Birkin and Catherine Deneuve, converged on the home of French singer-songwriter Serge Gainsbourg to mourn his death. Police said first inquiries indicated he had died of a heart attack at his home on the Left Bank. He was 62. Obituary, page 12

Store explosion

Bangkok — Fire broke out at a leading department store in Bangkok, injuring three people, police said. The blaze began after explosions in the store's chemical storage room. Firemen also extinguished an inferno that began in a chemical warehouse in the Klong Toey port area and killed five people and left 7,000 slum dwellers homeless. (AFP)

Papers 'hidden'

Berlin — Erich Honecker, the former East German leader charged with the manslaughter of people trying to escape to the West, has been accused of hiding incriminating documents before national unification last year. (Reuters)

Minister ousted

Peking — Qian Yongchang, the Chinese communications minister, aged 58, was removed from office by the standing committee of the National People's Congress for abusing his position for personal gain, the *People's Daily* reported. Lin Hanzhong, the construction minister, aged 62, was also ousted for violating discipline. (Reuters)

Yugoslavia gives Croatia a day to settle race tension

By DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CROATIA was given 24 hours by the Yugoslav federal presidency yesterday to defuse tension between Serbs and Croats at Pakrac, east of Zagreb, after weekend clashes in which three people were reportedly injured.

Tanks and armoured vehicles of the Yugoslav army were deployed last night in the town, where the population of 10,000 is almost equally divided between Serbs and Croats, after Milan Brezak, the Croatian deputy interior minister, denied there had been any deaths.

Belgrade radio reported on Saturday that six Serbs had been killed. The Belgrade daily, *Vecernje Novosti*, reported 11 dead. Police were said to be making identity checks and searching cars, and had cordoned off access to the

town hall and police headquarters yesterday.

The weekend violence has become another issue in a media war between Belgrade and Zagreb. The Serbian press exaggerated the extent of the clashes with claims of many deaths among Serbs, in a move intended to inflame popular anger and create the impression that in Croatia, Serbs were being threatened with mass killings reminiscent of the second world war.

On Saturday, special police stormed Pakrac after Serbs defied an order to hand in weapons. There was an hour-long gunbattle as police fought with the crowd of several hundred before the army was called in to separate the two sides. Serbian reservists had taken over the local police force in Pakrac on February

22, echoing pro-independence moves by ethnic Serbs in Krajina, southern Croatia.

In neighbouring villages, Serbs set up barricades as rumours spread that incoming police were ready to kill. Many fled, some with weapons, to surrounding hills.

The latest incident is the most serious since last summer when Serbs in Krajina defied the Croatian authorities and took up arms. The fighting has strained further the already tense relations between the Serbian and Croatian leadership.

The Zagreb leaders have appealed for calm, but relations between the two ethnic communities in Croatia, where 600,000 Serbs represent 11 per cent of the population, have now reached their lowest point. A minor incident could easily spark more bloodshed.

Serbs in Croatia have powerful backing from Serbia, which is communist-ruled, and from the Yugoslav army, which is predominantly Serbian, and has not concealed its hostility to the legitimately elected Croatian government of Franjo Tudjman.

The weekend clashes came just a month after the Croatian leadership and the Yugoslav army came close to armed confrontation. Dr Tudjman has accused the Yugoslav army of helping to provoke a Serbian rebellion in Croatia. He claims that the Croatian authorities have proof that senior army officers took part in the unrest at Pakrac, which culminated when Serbs disarmed Croatian policemen and kept them hostage until the army was called in.

"The presidency should keep in mind that we have in our hands evidence which we shall make available to the public," Dr Tudjman said.

The Croatian authorities have accused President Jovic — who is a Serb and often acts on his own — of allowing the situation to deteriorate before deploying the troops. But they are also at pains to emphasise that the deployment of troops ordered by the presidency had a local and temporary character and it did not mean that the army was acting against the Croatian state this time.

Serbia's ruling Socialist party, the renamed communists, yesterday organised a rally of about 5,000 people at the confluence of the Danube and Sava rivers in Belgrade. In central Belgrade, Serbia's main opposition leader, Vuk Draskovic, gave a more conciliatory speech to a crowd of about 1,500.



Creature comfort: Louis Mermeas, the French agriculture minister, petting a calf at an agricultural fair in Paris yesterday. He meets European Community ministerial colleagues in Brussels today for the first of what are likely to be several tough rounds of haggling over farm prices (George Brock writes).

Tirana accuses Serbia

From RICHARD BASSETT IN TIRANA

A SENIOR member of the Albanian communist party's politburo accused Serbia at the weekend of stirring up turmoil in his country. In the first interview in Albania's postwar history to be granted by the ruling elite to a Western journalist, Xenji Gjoni served warning that further unrest would not be tolerated.

"We do not wish stronger measures. The population does not wish it but if terrorist forces take the people, the people will rise up," he said. Mr Gjoni denounced the topping of Enver Hoxha's statue last month as an act of "fascist vandalism". Such Albanian have been fuelled by "foreign elements", he

claimed. Chief of these was Belgrade, which wanted as much turbulence as possible in Albania to distract attention from Serbia's human rights abuses against the Albanian population in Kosovo, Mr Gjoni insisted.

Mr Gjoni, who is related to the late Hissi Kapo, a close friend of Hoxha. He is secretary of the communist party's central committee and a former party boss of Tirana. He was highly critical of the Albanian opposition.

"The Democrat Party is a new party," he said. "Its experience is thin and they take advice from those abroad who do not understand either our nature or our character."

Mr Gjoni went on: "It is my view that the best interests of Albania are served by the communist party. That is also the case regarding Albania's future. Total privatisation as advocated by the opposition would be a disaster."

● VIENNA: Albania has stopped all food exports, declared a freeze on investments and announced staff cuts in its top-heavy administration in an effort to aid its ailing economy, Afa news agency said yesterday. (Reuters)

Letters, page 11

Latvian leader predicts victory in referendum

From ANATOL LIEVEN IN RIGA

IN A fresh challenge to President Gorbachev and his attempts to preserve the Soviet Union, Latvia and Estonia yesterday held referendums on independence. Their governments and national movements hope that the ballots

will strengthen their cause, and above all pre-empt the March 17 Soviet referendum on continuation of the union in its present form.

By midday yesterday, according to official figures, voter turnout was 50.74 per cent overall — high in Latvian-dominated rural areas, but lower in the cities, which have ethnic Russian majorities. The figure for Riga, the Latvian capital which is almost two-thirds ethnic Russian, was 39.73 per cent. After casting his vote in a sweet factory in Riga, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, the Latvian president, said: "I think that 70 per cent of those voting will choose independence."

If the Latvians and Estonians can gain the support of enough ethnic Russians to produce a two-thirds majority of their entire electorate for independence, they will have strengthened their cause greatly. Moscow's secession law demands this figure.

● MOSCOW — A home-made bomb exploded yesterday at a Communist party headquarters in Vilnius. There were no injuries. (AP)



Gorbunovs: confident of support for independence

Ossetian separatists reject Georgian talks

From BRUCE CLARK IN TSCHINVALI

LEADERS of this embattled town, whose squalid conditions after three months of economic and physical warfare is a testimony to the limits of Soviet power, have rejected as meaningless a proposal from Georgia's nationalist leader for negotiations.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who is facing threats from Moscow to broaden his peacekeeping role, has asked the Ossetian minority to find acceptable representatives for talks on the fighting between its volunteers and Georgian forces.

But a trip to Tskhinvali, where Ossetian leaders last September proclaimed a new Soviet republic, makes it plain there is still a gulf between the two sides, leaving little prospect for reconciliation. "Do not be deceived by the calm of the last few days," said Larisa Ostayeva, a schoolteacher and spokeswoman for the south Ossetian assembly, whose attempt to opt out of Georgia's drive for independence from the Soviet Union is seen by Georgians as treachery. "The Georgians will soon carry out some new provocation. Gamsakhurdia needs to

keep the Ossetian issue alive in order to protect his domestic position," she said, echoing a charge which is sometimes made by rivals of the president within the Georgian national movement. She said there could be no question of talks while Torres Kulumbegov, the Ossetian leader, remains in prison and while Tskhinvali is under economic blockade.

Files of rubbish and crashed vehicles are strewn about the streets of what was a bustling town of 45,000 in the Caucasian foothills. Its residents have faced a three-week black-out, shortages of food, water and fuel and a virtual absence of communications. Residents who bring food, and presumably arms, from north Ossetia, on the other side of the Caucasus, have to walk through Georgian-controlled villages. One of the preconditions of talks is that Ossetian guerrillas give up their weapons. But there seems to be no chance of that; virtually all men of both communities are involved in the conflict.

Amid the violence, happiness is a freeze-dried pet

MIAMI NOTEBOOK by SUSAN ELLICOTT

Manuel Noriega is languishing in a jail noted for its tennis courts while his trial is in turmoil after the sudden death in a car crash of a key witness. Ramon Navarro, a paid government informant aged 44, was to have testified this week in the trial of two of the co-defendants in the drug-smuggling trial of the former Panamanian leader.

Last week, Navarro's car swerved off a deserted road, plunging into a fence and an electrical transformer. Police said he died instantly of multiple injuries. There were no known witnesses. Investigators are reviewing the accident but said they suspected no foul play. The death will certainly set back the US case against the ousted strongman, since Navarro had testified under oath that he plotted two years ago with the general and other narcotics traffickers to smuggle more than 600lb of cocaine into the United States from Colombia on board a yacht. The incident has



Noriega: chief witness for his trial has "turned up as a cadaver"

drawn little more than wry smiles from Miami residents who have always rated as slim the chances of "Pineapple Face" coming to trial. Navarro's lawyer said: "It's kind of a coincidence that this guy's getting ready to testify and he turns up as a cadaver." The chief prosecutor said he intended to proceed with the trial.

Indeed, little appears to faze Miami's Maureen Kane, who works at Pet Heaven Memorial Park in Miami, reports an increasing interest in the freeze-drying of deceased pets for owners who cannot bear to let go. She describes freeze-drying as a more lifelike version of taxidermy, involving the removal of a pet's organs and the substitution of its eyes with glass, that is "not necessarily creepy". The "freezing" takes up to six months. Prices range from \$150 (£80) for a bird to \$400 for a cat. Ms Kane recommends keeping Rover, Kitty or Polly in an air-conditioned room and an occasional light brushing.

But they are irked by the "Miami Vice" label that has stuck to their hometown since the 1970s. They insist the crime rate is lower than in many large US cities, while the "quality of life" is unbeatable in their so-called sunshine state. Recently, however, they have begun to wish they had not sung the praises of Florida with such suc-

cess since growing numbers of vagrants are reminding transplanted northerners of the urban ills they left behind.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the archipelago west of Miami, where tourists flock during the balmy winter months to snorkel among brilliantly coloured fish, sunbathe and unwind before spring. These days, visitors are complaining about the year-round population of beggars, drunks and drug addicts who, like them, are happy to "hang out" on the sandy beaches off Key West. Hoteliers and restaurant owners claim the "homeless" are beginning to scare holidaymakers away, but they cannot agree on how to deal with the problem.

Amid a range of corruption trials of policemen and a suspended mayor, the most talked-about scandal in town these days is an exposé in the *Miami Herald* of a homosexual bathhouse masquerading as a health club but

of the type closed by health authorities and gay activists in the mid-1980s at the height of a national scare about the spread of Aids.

Although the city has the fifth largest number of Aids patients in the United States, the club has been renting out so-called "dressing rooms" barely the size of cupboards for eight-hour periods with a bed, clean sheets and a pillow. Reporters found sexual aids and leather gear stowed in a "pleasure chest" but no work-out equipment.

The club's "education director" showed videos of men engaged in unsafe sexual acts but offered little — or incorrect — advice about the use of condoms. He offered himself as a sexual partner to the club's members while knowing he was infected with the HIV virus.

State and local authorities told the newspaper that they knew nothing of the goings-on and recently gave the club permission to expand.

Ronald Butt

Victims of good intentions

In nearly a third of our schools, standards are "worryingly poor". This is no wild allegation by some prejudiced critic of state education but the testimony of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for Schools in his latest annual report. In appropriate bureaucratic manner, however, this appalling finding is defensively balanced by the report's insistence that "much more" of the service is "satisfactory or good than is poor or very poor". The slight improvement since last year is acclaimed and critics of state education are castigated for "indiscriminate scatter-shot attacks on standards, on the quality of all teachers and on the state education service at large".

Yet I have never heard any critic allege that all teaching, teachers or standards were bad. Even the most stringent of them would hardly say more than that one in three of all children were poorly taught and that, of the rest, (as the chief inspector's report states) a high proportion merely received "satisfactory" teaching, which hardly testifies to high teaching standards - if the terminology of school reports on pupils is anything to go by.

In primary schools, for instance, 30 per cent of the work was found to be "poor", about 36 per cent "satisfactory" and only 33 per cent "good to very good". There may

At the heart of the matter is the poor start of so many children in the primary schools. For some there is no recovery later

be improvements and more may be on the way, but the pace is slower than the nation can afford. Of course, all this is nothing new. Successive education secretaries, university teachers who judge from the level of education of their students, and countless worried parents could testify to its reality. The numbers of people who struggle to pay for independent education for their children and the many more who turn to private coaching to try to make good the inadequacies of the teaching provided by the state are proof that something is fundamentally wrong.

At the heart of the matter is the poor start of so many children in the primary schools, where often they are neither taught adequately the essential rudiments of mathematics nor encouraged to write or read stories and poetry. For some children there is no recovery later.

They are the victims of a well-meant doctrine which emphasises equality of outcome (rather than of opportunity) and requires the height of hurdles to be lowered so that fewer children fail. Hence the educational establishment's suspicion of examinations and the changes made in them so that more will pass. Hence the dislike of attainment-testing, which is not a trial the pupils should fear but rather a way of finding out how well or ill they are being taught.

Hence, too, the inadequate use of formal classwork and the over-emphasis on projects. Pasting pictures and copying into books ruins teaching time, and learning by rote is despised. Classroom assessment is preferred to examinations, despite the risk that some children may suffer more from teachers' preconceptions than

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Never mind the smog warning, before the next war, could they issue a smog warning? I wonder whether we are altogether the most sanctimonious nation on earth, or only finalists for some sort of world cup in the pious leagues? I wonder there is anything at all - any small endeavour, however trivial - over which we do not feel bound to moralise? I wonder whether it is possible for an Englishman to clean his teeth without constructing it into an act of virtue; or to take his family for a picnic without seeking out the moral high ground to picnic upon?

I wonder whether this is some kind of intoxication? Do we, perhaps, become smug-drunk? And can one suffer from a smug-hangover? Will we, months on from this wretched war, wake up with pounding heads and blink: "Oh cripe! Was I very smug, or just slightly? Did I make an idiot of myself - or were the others all smug too?"

And a comforting voice will say: "Don't worry, dear. You were just a bit on your moral high horse, but we all were. It does no harm, once in a while..." And we will try to piece together the events of the weeks past - the newspaper editorials, the saloon-bar sermons, parliamentary questions and letters to the editor - and remember what we said, and to whom, in case there are apologies to be made.

"This is rum!" I hear friends mutter. "He seems to oppose this war - an ex-Tory MP?" Not so. Not for so much as an

instant did even a flicker of doubt as to its point or its prospects cross my mind. It seemed to me entirely expedient. The opposition to taking action struck me as - frankly - crackers. Some Middle Eastern screwing up the war, my friends and threatening our interests. Plainly he had to be stopped. So I can steel myself against the guns, the bombs, the killing, the blood; it's the moralising I can't stand.

Take all this guff about the United Nations. It is perfectly clear that nobody is interested in the UN except when the organisation can be bounced into backing up our own opinions. By a rather remarkable coincidence that occurred this time. This happy circumstance, which will almost certainly never be repeated, arose because the Soviet Union was too punch-drunk to conduct its habitual spilling operation. Once you've got a security council resolution in place it is hard to dislodge. The war therefore proceeded under the UN's notional auspices, although it was really an American enterprise with backing from America's friends, and Arabs who are more afraid of Saddam than of President Bush.

The United Nations consensus stands no chance of surviving "the peace", and so you already see Western governments cooling their UN rhetoric, fast. Quite right, too. This bizarre organisation should no more stop us following our own judgments than it stopped Tony Benn when he disagreed with it.

Carrots and sticks will tame Baghdad

Reparations can ensure good behaviour, says Harold James

Should Iraq pay reparations to Kuwait? The claim seems legitimate in the light of the appalling and militarily unnecessary wrecking of the emirate from the looting and murder that accompanied the initial invasion in August to the last wave of burning oil wells. There is nothing wrong with the principle of reparation, but there are frequent objections on the basis of past practice.

Reparations imposed on Germany after the first world war were still widely believed to have been responsible for the legacy of German bitterness which led to the Third Reich, and to have contributed significantly to the world economic depression.

The Versailles Treaty imposed on Germany an unequal claim for reparations, which was finally fixed two years later at 132 billion Gold Marks, an apparently unrealistic sum, more than three times the pre-war German GNP. In the event, Germany only ever paid a small part of this (about 22 billion Gold Marks). The pay-

ments were revised downwards in 1924, and again in 1929. Three years later an international conference at Lausanne, believing that reparations had played a leading part in causing the world depression, cancelled the payments.

By the time of the Lausanne conference, most people outside France and Belgium considered reparations an unmitigated evil. The change in attitude was a testimony to the vigour of John Maynard Keynes's polemic of 1919, the *Economic Consequences of the Peace*. Keynes had come away from Versailles convinced of the folly of reparations. Economically, he believed, they disrupted the trade patterns of the pre-war years; and politically, they poisoned the minds of Germans against the West. This interpretation subsequently became the commonplace of history textbooks, as well as a guide to political action. Had not repara-

tions indicated to the German people that the Western powers were untrustworthy and vindictive? And had not Hitler's National Socialists scored their first political breakthrough in the 1929 plebiscite against them?

Keynes's argument was seductive but wrong, and its success at Lausanne proved disastrous. Reparations provided an excellent way of binding Germany into the international order and limiting the scope for revanchism.

The improvement of the terms granted in 1924 and 1929 was possible only because Germany demonstrated that it could be trusted. In each case, revision held out benefits to Germans: not just in reduced payments but also because in demonstrating German status as a reliable member of the international order, they created access to foreign markets and sources of capital.

In terms of domestic opinion,

reparations provided a safety valve for discontent. The impoverishment that followed the war, and the grim realities of life in the depressed 1920s, made Germans look for a scapegoat. Rather than blaming their previous or present government they pinned responsibility for their deprivation on the allies, and on the need to make payments.

This relocation of responsibility helped governments to survive in conditions of severe hardship, because they could always claim that the misery was imposed from outside.

In 1932, when reparations were removed, and the economic situation failed to improve, Germans no longer had this easy explanation. They started to blame their own governments for policy failures, and they demanded a radical change. It was no coincidence that the end of reparations (July 1932) was only six months before the complete breakdown of Weimar

democracy and the appointment of Adolf Hitler as chancellor. The lesson of interwar Germany is that the threat to peace, stability and democracy lies in removing reparations, and not in imposing them. After Lausanne, moderation ceased to be attractive or rewarding; and the stage was set for a second world war.

A high but realistic reparations bill that can be negotiated down can still provide today an incentive for international cooperation. It is a carrot and not simply a stick. We should now establish a Versailles rather than a Lausanne.

For Iraq there would be the hope that reparations might be reduced with a change of regime. And for a peaceful and responsible regime, there is the possibility that the restoration of aggression, militarism and vandalism would bring instant financial penalties. Reparations - handled properly - can be the most valuable instrument of political re-education. The author is professor of history at Princeton University.

Time for a Siberian thaw

I suppose you could call this one of the smaller but still significant meetings of history. After all, Mr Gorbachev's door is not open to just anyone who cares to call. Yet, as I recorded a few months ago, Joyce Simpson, one of those extraordinary Jewish ladies who spend their days and nights giving comfort and - more important - practical help to the Soviet "refuseniks" (if you thought that there were no refuseniks left there, you were, alas, most grievously mistaken) brought off a coup which required more *chutzpah* than even I thought the ladies had.

She walked up to Mr Gorbachev and handed him a file giving the details of the hideous perversion of justice that had condemned an innocent man, Adolf Gorvitz, to ten years in the Gulag. (If you thought that the Gulag no longer existed, you were even more mistaken.) Nor was her action taken on the spur of the moment while a bewildered Mr Gorbachev wondered what it was all about.

She had already beard him and asked him to take appropriate action on behalf of those innocent still suffering in Soviet camps and prisons; he asked her to give him details; the Gorvitz file was her response, and he took it from her willingly. Well, it took a few months; but the Jewish ladies have learnt to be patient. The terrible years are over for the moment at least. Mr Gorvitz has been released. Alas, when one does years, another dies. Adolf Gorvitz is out, but Yuri Massover, Samuil Rombe, Dmitri Berman and the brothers Felix and Roman Bodner are still in the Gulag, and so are a lot more besides.

Since we can start anywhere, we might as well start with Samuil Rombe. He has been trying to get out of the Soviet Union since 1975; the system then (as now) was that the first application to emigrate led at once to dismissal from whatever work the applicant had been doing. Rombe was a scientist of some note; his field was genetics. After his automatic dismissal, he got work as a truck driver and night watchman.

Six years after his first application, he was told that his exit visa would be provided within a few days. Within those few days he was arrested. The charges changed from day to day, as is common, and he was eventually "tried" and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. The sentence was suspended, but he was not allowed

to go home, and was assigned to rock-breaking and road-building. That was in the early Eighties; that a couple of months ago did he get full permission to leave the country. On the eve of his and his family's departure, the same trick was played; he was arrested on the usual variety of charges, and is now awaiting trial.

Tick off Mr Rombe, call in Dmitri Berman, who is one of the few refuseniks to have been charged with murder. After eight months of daily beatings and torture by drugs, he attempted suicide. He was finally told that if he did not confess to the crime he would be either executed or incarcerated in one of the Soviet Union's terrible "madhouses-for-the-sane" (yes, they are still with us, as real as the Gulag), where he would be made truly insane. He confessed. So would we.



As John Major visits Moscow, Bernard Levin challenges Gorbachev to set the remaining refuseniks free

Protesters spoke up inside and outside the Soviet Union (the ones inside exhibiting extraordinary courage); more to the point, the trumped-up charge was shown to be riddled with perjury, subornation and impossibilities. Eventually, Mr Berman's case was thrown out, the evidence agreed to be a total fabrication.

In January, Mr Berman went home, free. In June, the two chief investigators (justice will be done upon them one day, so we may as well name them - they are Vladimir Litvinchenko and Mikhail Potemkin) threatened to re-open the case. They had invented a new kind of trial, one in which there would be no exhibits, no observers and no prior announcement of the "trial" date.

In August, 1990, the prosecutor made in writing a statement that the case against Mr Berman had been withdrawn, and that there was no evidence of his participation in the crime. He applied to emigrate with his family; they were given permission, but he was refused, because "there might be new charges". He took refuge in the Canadian embassy in Moscow; when last heard from (January 5, 1991) he was still there.

Felix Bodner, step forward, and bring your brother Roman. The brothers Bodner were charged with embezzling 5,500,000 rubles; the fact that they were Jews was in itself officially declared to be an aggravating circumstance. Though their name was, and has always been, Bodner, they were charged under the name of "Bender", because there was a convicted criminal of that name. They were held in prison, first in Tashkent, then in Moscow, then in Tashkent again, for a year in all

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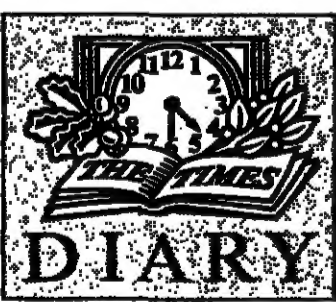
Who will rule the air waves?

Eight months before the end of Marmaduke Hussey's term as chairman of the BBC Board of Governors, the corridors of power are alive with whispers about who will succeed him.

Dr David Owen, the former SDF leader who has become something of a cheerleader for John Major, is one name being widely touted as a replacement. "His tough, no-nonsense style would be valuable during the expected turbulence of broadcasting deregulation in the early Nineties," says a member of the Privy Council, which makes the appointment on the advice of the prime minister. Senior cabinet ministers such as Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, who has responsibility for broadcasting, will also play an important role in making the decision.

Other names in the frame include Lord Barnett of Heywood and Royton, at present vice-chairman of the board. But the former Labour minister's age (he will be 68 when the post becomes available in November) could count against him. Lord St John of Fawley, chairman of the Royal Fine Arts Commission, also has his supporters. A former arts minister, he has a deep interest in broadcasting, citing one of his recreation *What? Who? When?* as "appearing on television". He is understood to have strong support from Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman.

The outsider is Jeremy Isaacs, the chief of the Royal Opera House. As a former chief executive of Channel 4 he has the necessary experience, and despite his insistence that he intends to remain at Covent Garden, friends believe he would accept the job if it were offered.



Hussey himself, however, has other ideas. Although the convention is that the chairman retires after a single five-year term, the former Grenadier Guards officer is thought to be planning a rearguard action that could secure a renewal of his contract for another five years.

Simply divine

Not since the design of the Princess of Wales's wedding dress has the fashion world been so excited. Juliet Hemingway, a Derby embroiderer, has unveiled her designs for the outfit to be worn by the Rev Dr George Carey for his enthronement as the Archbishop of Canterbury next month. Its elaborateness, and that of a second set of robes revealed in *The Times* today, seems to fly in the face of the archbishop's own suggestion, reported in the *Diary* last month, that he favoured simple vestments. The garments are at least as ornate as those worn by Robert Runcie for his debut; Hemingway was given a brief to produce something eye-catching for a television audience. The cope is yellow moire, while the mitre and stole are fashioned from cream-coloured moire, appliqued with purple, red, orange, yellow and gold flames and decorated with rhinestones and metallic cord. The hood is decorated with the Compass Rose, a symbol for the

Anglican Communion which lies in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral, and the words "The truth will make you free" from St John's Gospel.

"I was asked to come up with a design which has a symbolic message and which will draw the attention of people watching the ceremony at home," says Hemingway. Traditionalists, however, can draw comfort from one accessory which will be incorporated into the new design. Carey's cope will be fastened with the clasp first used by Archbishop Howley in the early 19th century.

Armed survivor

A visit to the garden of the former private residence of the Ceausescus in Bucharest, arranged by bribing the soldiers guarding the gates, is the latest tourist attraction in Romania. The garden itself is nondescript, but through a scrubby thicket, the *palace de rezidenta* is revealed. Under a glass and stone canopy stands an exquisite copy of the Venus de Milo - but with a difference.

A Romanian guide, who took



part in the revolution, explains: "Madame Ceausescu was an ignorant peasant who thought she was an art expert. She ordered copies of various works of art,

including the Venus de Milo. When it arrived she was horrified. 'This is rubbish!' she shouted. 'Where are its arms?' They were added by an obedient Romanian sculptor, and strategically placed to preserve the statue's modesty. 'The government does not know what to do with the house,' says the guide. 'But whatever is decided, this statue should be preserved as the only monument the Ceausescus deserve.'

Out of the action

The swift end of the Gulf war appears to have caught even Downing Street on the hop. Stephen Wall, a former aide to Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who was due to take over from Sir Charles Powell as John Major's private secretary and unofficial foreign policy adviser as soon as the war ended, is still abroad on holiday. Powell is now likely to stay on until Easter.

When the war started, Major agreed that in the interests of continuity the staff changeover should not take place until after hostilities had ceased, and told Wall he need not prepare himself to report for duty until the middle of this month at the earliest. A Downing Street source said Wall was travelling around Europe on a long overdue holiday, and is not due back in Britain for another fortnight.

More high-rise in the Docklands seems certain following the London Docklands Development Corporation's endorsement of plans by the John R. Harris partnership for Shad 35, the site next to Canary Wharf. But not everyone is happy. Olympia and York have protested to the LDDC about the "high density" of the proposed scheme. And who are Olympia and York? The people responsible for that well-known high-density development Canary Wharf.



LIFE AFTER POLL TAX: 5

The easy part of John Major's incumbency of Downing Street is now over. This week he prolongs his honeymoon with a trip to Moscow, but last Saturday's Tory local government conference gave him a foretaste of the tough tasks ahead, tougher by far than any he will face in the Kremlin. Before the month is out, he will have to tackle his first great leadership test, pushing through the Conservative party the abolition of his predecessor's poll tax.

Or will he? March is always a tense time for Tory politicians. They are keyed up for spring elections, the grassroots activists testing their muscles at conferences and campaign meetings. The budget is in prospect. Every four years, there is a June election to guess at. Rarely do such moments see great radicalism, or even great courage. March is a mad month in politics, the month for the short-term view.

Hence the strident revisionism now being heard from Tory briefers on the fate of the poll tax. A handful of speakers at Saturday's conference called on ministers to stop bad-mouthing the community charge and to defend it. With splendidly low charges from Wandsworth and Westminster already announced, surely the task was to speak well of this noble creation of 1980s Toryism. Further into the backwoods it is even being muttered that defending the poll tax will be the true test of Mr Major's loyalty to his predecessor's memory, the Thatcherite covenant. Go back to property taxes and the wets will have triumphed after all.

No senior minister, official or local politician (apart from a tiny few showed with knightships and transitional grants) seriously believes the poll tax should stay in being. A handful want to keep it alongside a property tax involving local government in the monstrosity of two registers to maintain. While no clear option has yet emerged to replace the tax, the chief reason is not the absence of an option but fear of the party

reaction to restoring the rates. This reason needs emphasis: the cabinet's fear is not of the electoral reaction but that of party activists and a handful of backbenchers.

The rates, widened in scope, deepened in incidence and coated in some new fiscal cosmetic, are the only sensible way of paying for local services if real accountability is ever to return to local government. Poll tax has reduced the proportion of local revenue subject to local decision from almost 60 per cent to under 20 per cent in ten years of Conservative rule. Tory activists may wish that decline to continue, but they are no friends of local government.

The path of necessity is clear. Mr Major must summon his environment secretary, Michael Heseltine, and agree with him that the poll tax must go and be replaced by a rental-related property tax embracing both domestic and business premises. Historical distortions in valuations must be adjusted through the central grant system.

Mr Major must secure cabinet agreement for this view and then insist that the party in parliament and the country go along with the decision. Margaret Thatcher whipped the poll tax through a bitterly resistant party. John Major must, if needs be, whip through its replacement. He knows the party and government made a mistake and must now correct it. He has to clear this wretched business out of the way — and fast, painful though the clearing may be.

Mr Major could vacillate, worry himself sick about "the view of the party", backtrack and postpone. He could allow himself to be led by short-term expediency and wander Whitehall blindly clutching at any straw. But he should be careful. Funnily this one and the comparison with his predecessor will be on every political lip: where's the beef? The Conservative party responds to nothing as readily as to the smack of firm leadership. In the matter of poll tax, the leadership must know what it wants and how to get it.

THE STEELY GENTLEMAN

And what should John Major do in Moscow this week? Making policy on the hoof during meetings with Mikhail Gorbachev is not a good idea, as Ronald Reagan discovered at Reykjavik in 1986. Nor is hasty improvisation part of Mr Major's diplomatic repertoire. But the Baltic referendums on independence, in defiance of Moscow, are reminders that events in the Soviet Union have not stood still during the Gulf war. Mr Major should devote this visit to making up his own mind, both about the extent of the Leninist reaction in the Kremlin, and about how the West should respond.

Mr Major's gift for striking up working relationships with foreign statesmen is likely to work on President Gorbachev. But good relations need not and must not paralyse policy. There has always been a case for loyalty to the devil you know. But Mr Gorbachev is no longer the devil-turned-saint the West thought it knew. He is becoming an unknown quantity once again. Mr Major will have the advantage over other western leaders of coming fresh to the task of reading this man's intentions.

Much of this week's talks will be over the aftermath of the Gulf war. Soviet policy has, on balance, helped the American-led coalition's efforts to deal with Saddam Hussein, notably at the United Nations. Still, Iraq was defeated without a drop of Russian blood being shed. Soviet support in the UN will continue to be needed, but Moscow has not earned the right to act as co-arbitrator of the region with the allied coalition. Mr Gorbachev need expect no new pay-off from the West for abandoning his former ally in Iraq. Obedience to international law should be its own reward.

Soviet backtracking on the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) agreement is more sensitive and, in the long run, more important. Arms control has been the most conspicuous success story of the Gorbachev era. But the evidence for Soviet backtracking

is now too strong to ignore. Behind the treaty infringements, such as the restoration of equipment covered by CFE behind the Urals, lies the power of an unholy alliance of generals, defence contractors and the KGB in fierce contention with the foreign affairs professionals — a conflict whose outcome was ominously signalled by the resignation in despair of Eduard Shevardnadze.

Mr Gorbachev's interest in this meeting derives almost wholly from the possibility of economic assistance from the European Community. Britain's influence over its partners' foreign policy, and on Washington, has hitherto enjoyed a healthy respect in Moscow. Mr Major should make the most of this. He needs to tell the Soviet president that assistance is possible, but only if the Kremlin does not ignore the manifest democratic wishes of the Soviet peoples, including awkward customers like Boris Yeltsin. Such democratic institutions as there are once had Mr Gorbachev's blessing. If he continues to undermine them, the West will have no reason to trust him.

At the Rome EC summit last year, Mrs Thatcher stopped her partners from affirming the present borders of the Soviet Union and so overturning the West's consistent refusal to grant de jure recognition of Stalin's annexation of the Baltic states. Mr Major's tough line after the shootings in Vilnius and Riga suggests that he shares his predecessor's view that the Baltic lands are a special case.

The prime minister has no chance of persuading Mr Gorbachev to drop his opposition to Baltic independence. But he has an opportunity to explore the depth of that opposition: is there anything that would persuade Mr Gorbachev to change his mind, as he did over German unity? He should tell the Soviet leader that Britain will not echo Bonn's prevarications on the Baltic states. Mr Major's good manners will charm his host: but he should not hesitate to show that he can be a steely gentleman too.

THANKS FOR THE VICTORY

Wars form their own characters. The Gulf war has been businesslike, mechanical, in outcome overwhelmingly one-sided, quite different from the Falklands war. That was celebrated by a victory parade through London. Yesterday the Bishop of Durham said that another parade would be "obscene" and that any thanksgiving service should dwell on repentance and gratitude, not triumphalism. Was he reflecting the mood of the country? Or merely the views of a leftwing Anglican ready to offer the media a sound bite at the drop of a telephone call?

The bishop's adjective was characteristically invidious. "Inappropriate" or "unnecessary" would have made the bishop's point just as well as "obscene", and rendered the ensuing argument less rancorous. But the bishop is the gadfly of the Church of England. He knows that exaggeration is the handmaid of publicity, provoking somnolent institutions into lively debate.

After the Falklands war, there was nothing to be lost by celebrating a national victory at arms. The Argentinians had invaded British soil and been sent off. Too bad if they took offence. Yet even then, there was unease not only in leftwing quarters over the triumphalism that seemed to have infected the government and much of the country. When Dr Robert Runcie delivered a low-key sermon at the service of thanksgiving, Mrs Thatcher was reportedly furious. Many felt he was right. Too much celebration seemed somehow undignified, even un-English.

Victory parades are a primitive ritual, designed to respond to the visceral urges of one tribe that has defeated another. They are

a way not of thanking but of glorifying warriors. They date from days when every able-bodied male had to take up arms and when triumphs, like loot, were part of the community's incentive package. There is nothing wrong with such primeval desires. But in a country as mature as Britain, there are other, more civilised ways, of expressing the civilian's gratitude to soldiers.

Those who fought in the Gulf and their relatives have gone through a terrible ordeal. Some — thankfully few — lost their lives in what was unquestionably a good cause. Their achievement and sacrifice must not go unrecognised. But a pipe-and-drum, ticker-tape parade would send the wrong signals to the Arab world. Britain would be seen as an arrogant Western country revelling in its humiliation of an Arab loser.

The Bishop of Durham is right in one sense. All war is a symbol of failure, the failure of politics, of diplomacy, of deterrence. But war does have the characteristic of rectifying failure. If it achieves that goal, the achievement merits recognition. The service of thanksgiving should express gratitude to the armed forces for having fought successfully in a justified war. It should be as ecumenical as possible, to avoid excluding members of non-Christian faiths. John Major should trust his political instinct, which so far has served him well. If the soldiers and the public want a procession, it should be a dignified event, a walk down Whitehall to the Cenotaph, in honour of the fallen and as a reminder to the nation that the avoidance of war is the ultimate task of politics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Preslington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Ways of winning the Gulf peace

From Mr David Kemp, QC

Sir, Saddam Hussein and his henchmen are regarded as being guilty of flagrant violations of international law. But it would be a grave political mistake to try them before an ad hoc international tribunal.

However, the procedures adopted, however strong the evidence against the accused, the tribunal would be seen by many in the Arab world and in other Muslim countries as a mere instrument of the West. There is, anyway, something distasteful about a special tribunal set up by the victors to try the vanquished.

The worst crimes were committed in Kuwait. When the legitimate government of that country has been fully restored, let those accused of such crimes be handed over to that government to be tried in the courts of Kuwait for offences committed against the criminal laws of Kuwait.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEMP,
4 Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1.

From Mr J. P. Hart

Sir, In view of the pillage and destruction of Kuwait and its oil production, refining and export facilities, there must be no relaxation of the requirement that Iraq must pay reparations. A practical means of exacting compensation on the scale necessary is by means of imposing a levy on Iraqi oil exports.

In the past, the bulk of Iraqi exports have been transmitted via the pipeline terminals at the Saudi port on Yanbu on the Red Sea and the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan; thus effective control over both could be exercised. Assuming that producers, particularly Saudi Arabia, who made good the shortfall, were willing to reduce their production to pre-August 1990 levels and Iraqi exports via these terminals were restored to (say) 2 million barrels per day, a levy of \$5 per barrel would produce around \$3.5 billion per annum. On this basis, control would need to remain in place for very many years.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HART,
Ashfield, 39 Outlands Chase,
Weybridge, Surrey.
February 26.

Community forests

From Mr R. Crosbie Dawson

Sir, The recent correspondence (February 23, 25, 28) concerning both the attractions and economic benefits of community forests has failed to address the central problem. Such forests are not designed to produce a utilisable crop and thus provide a measurable return on the public money allocated to them. What is required is a considerable expansion of commercial forestry on marginal agricultural land in the wetter parts of the country.

Josslyn Gore-Booth (February 25) calls the British climate cold and dry, relative to the west of Ireland. The west side of the UK also benefits from a maritime climate,

which is considerably warmer and wetter than the continental climates that provide much of the world's coniferous timber. As a result trees in the UK grow on average two to three times faster than in the countries which supply over 80 per cent of our timber requirements, namely Canada, the USSR, and Scandinavia.

We have the land to grow commercial crops of trees at a profit, but also need the political willpower for such necessary development to proceed.

Yours faithfully,
R. CROSBIE DAWSON,
Barrington Farm House,
Great Barrington,
Burford,
Oxford.

Albania's plight

From Sir Reginald Hibbert

Sir, It is odd that your third leader on February 22 described current events in Albania as the final act of the Balkan tragedy which began at Yalta. The partisans led by Enver Hoxha were victorious in Albania and he set up a communist government there several months before the Yalta conference took place. This could have been prevented only by military intervention from outside (as in Greece), but strategic decisions taken at Allied summit meetings in 1943 left no forces available for such intervention. Neither British nor American nor Soviet armies entered Albania at the end of the war. Yalta changed nothing there.

Your leader said that the West must take its share of responsibility for leaving this little nation to Stalin's satrap. But Enver Hoxha was not a creation of Stalin's and had his communist upbringing not in Moscow but in France. After the war he used Stalin's methods to get rid of rivals and colleagues and to frustrate Tito, but neither Stalin nor his successors ever managed to get a grip on Hoxha and the Albanian Communist Party.

Those who have written about their wartime experiences in Albania have been almost exclusively officers who were with the losing "nationalist" side, and they have

claimed that Albania went communist because Britain's SOE (Special Operations Executive) helped the partisans and not the "nationalists". Hence the idea that the West is responsible for Albania's plight. What happened in 1943 and 1944 was in fact much more complex than that.

The partisans, while fighting the "nationalists", also fought the Germans enough to get a few hundred tons of weapons and equipment from SOE. The "nationalists" were beguiled by the Greater Albania (including Kosovo) which the Germans had brought into being, and thought they could rely on the Germans to crush the partisans and on the Western Allies to send an expeditionary force to keep out the Slavs and communism when Germany was defeated. They were wrong on both counts.

The story of the partisan war and Enver Hoxha's rise to power has not been adequately told in the West (nor in Albania for that matter). If the Western powers are going to help Albania, they need a better understanding of the way in which Albania arrived at the singular condition which has separated it from the rest of Europe for nearly half a century.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
Fruidge, Penzance,
Machynlleth, Powys.
February 23.

Westminster heritage

From Dr John Rae

Sir, Mrs Christopher Patten and her co-signatories (February 28) omit to say what the building they object to is for. Their omission is understandable. Bequeathed residents versus archdiocese of Westminster makes a better story than influential residents versus the needs of school-children.

A principal reason for the proposed building is the urgent need for space for Westminster Cathedral Choir School. The school was built for 30; it now has to accommodate 90. The governors approved the expansion because a school for children only was neither economically nor educationally viable.

Without the additional pupils the choir school would have closed and the musical heritage of the cathedral would have been lost. The new building is the only way in which desperately needed space can be provided.

If the building goes ahead some of the residents of Morpeth Terrace will lose their view of the cathedral.

Their objection is understandable. But they must not pretend that there is nothing at stake but a "multi-purpose building".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RAE (Vice-chairman of Governors), Westminster Cathedral Choir School, Ambrosedon Avenue, SW1.
March 1.

From Mr John Gibbs

Sir, Mrs Patten and others claim that the new pastoral and educational centre which the Archdiocese of Westminster plans to build within the curtilage of Westminster Cathedral will detract from the area's architectural value. Their opinion should be set against the uncompleted plans for the whole curtilage laid out at the end of the last century by John Francis Bentley, the cathedral architect. These plans clearly envisaged a sizeable

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Hotels working under difficulty

From the Chief Executive of Trusthouse Forte

Sir, I am afraid I must take issue with almost every aspect of your leader entitled "Room at the inn" (February 27).

Your criticism of the British hotel industry seems to have been triggered by a government contribution of £1.6m to help overcome the temporary problems caused by the Gulf war. This contribution, although very welcome, brings the government support for promoting the United Kingdom to £13 million this year. Given that in 1990 tourism contributed £9.6 billion in overseas earnings, produced tax revenue of £2.5 billion, and provided jobs for one in ten of our workforce, I think that the British taxpayer is receiving very good value for money.

Your article also appears to argue that we are suffering now because we have neglected the British market. This is completely untrue. In recent years the leisure-break market has been developed beyond all recognition, offering extremely attractive packages both in London and the provinces.

Furthermore, the majority of new hotels built in recent years have been "budget accommodation", such as our own Travelodge chain, which offers high-quality accommodation for a family of four at £29.50 per night. As far as my own company is concerned, almost half of the guests in our London hotels are from the UK, as are 90 per cent in our provincial hotels.

The comments on price are also not borne out by the hard facts. A very recent BTA (British Tourist Authority) survey shows that London is considerably less expensive than comparable major cities around the world.

We operate in an exceptionally competitive market with most comparable governments spending significantly higher amounts to lure international travellers to their

countries. It would defy the basic principles of economics if we really were offering a product which was not good value for money but had still managed to attract 15 per cent more visitors to London over the past five years.

Yours sincerely,
ROCCO FORTE,
Chief Executive, Trusthouse Forte,
166 High Holborn, WC1.
February 28.

From Mr Richard Davis

Sir, Your leader over-simplifies the case by giving the impression that hoteliers have taken advantage of the shortage of hotel accommodation in the capital solely for reasons of greed.

Regrettably hoteliers have been obliged to charge high prices in order to provide the returns on investment demanded by the City, which has always taken a particularly short-term view in financing this industry.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DAVIS,
22 Belsize Road, NW6.
February 28.

From the Chairman of the British Incoming Tour Operators' Association

Sir, A small financial gesture has been made by government to the tourism industry, an industry whose knock-on effect on every part of the country and the economy is enormous.

As one of my members remarked last week, if farmers can be compensated for every mad cow they had to destroy, why can we not be compensated for every (mad?) visitor who chooses to stay away?

Yours faithfully,
SARAH DALE, Chairman,
The British Incoming Tour Operators' Association,
18a Coulson Street, SW3.
February 27.

Ulster governance

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article, "A visit to Ulster" (February 23), rightly describes the present regime in the Province as "colonial" and unacceptable. You go on, however, to propose forcing the Northern Irish to take on more responsibility for governing their own society on a fixed timetable. Is this really necessary?

The Province already enjoys a legislative self-government, thanks to a generous representation at Westminster where four of its main parties have won seats. What is needed to free it from colonial status is not legislative devolution but administrative devolution, i.e., the restoration of local government as in the rest of the Kingdom, though with control of the police remaining under the Northern Ireland Office as long as the emergency continues.

Where is the difficulty other than

in the inhibitions of the Northern Ireland Office and the ambitions of some in the Republic?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1.
February 25.

From Mr David Trimble, MP for Upper Ban (Ulster Unionist)

Sir, Professor O'Leary (February 20) is quite right to say that "Mr Brooke, like his predecessors in the office of Secretary of State for Northern Ireland since its creation in 1972 has been following the principles first enunciated in the Green Paper, *The Future of Northern Ireland* (1972)".

Their consistency has been as remarkable as their failure. Perhaps it might occur to the professor that there might be something wrong with those principles if they have been so barren of results.

Yours,
DAVID TRIMBLE,
House of Commons.

Where to worship

From the Reverend R. Baker

Sir, Elisabeth Benians complains about restricted opportunities for worship in one of Norfolk's fine churches during this "so-called Decade of Evangelism" (February 23). The arrangements at the church to which she refers are not a matter for her (the wife of a former vicar of the parish) or for me (the Rural Dean) but for the people of the parish concerned and their incumbent. However, her complaint is hardly justified.

There are nearly 30 other anglican churches in this deanery, one of them in the same parish as the church she mentions, offering a wide variety of opportunities for worship. Nearly all have at least one service every Sunday, some have two or three. Most would be willing to provide transport where necessary. If anything our problem is that there are too many opportunities for worship and the quality of it suffers in consequence. This pattern is repeated across Norfolk and across the country.

Of course, if people want to worship in a particular ruin according to a particular rite they are likely to be disappointed. If they insist on choosing the time and frequency of the service the difficulties increase.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BAKER,
The Rectory,
Brundall, Norwich, Norfolk.
February 26.

Hooked by tobacco?

From Professor D. M. Warburton

Sir, Your leading article, "No smoke without fuss" (February 15), should not have described nicotine as "the most physically addictive of widely consumed narcotics". The term narcotic refers to drugs which numb or deaden. It is used medically to encompass all those drugs which are referred to as narcotic analgesics, i.e., morphine, as well as other opiates, like heroin.

There is very poor evidence for the occurrence of physical dependence in smokers, as the recent report of the United States Surgeon General, *The Health Benefits of Smoking Cessation* — 1990, shows. Certainly, there is not the stereotypical pattern of symptoms which characterise withdrawal from morphine or heroin.

Indeed, the term "addiction" itself is controversial when describing smoking. The 1990 surgeon general's report does not use the word once, except when referencing book titles.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WARBURTON,
University of Reading,
Human Psychopharmacology Group,
Building 3, Earley Gate,
Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire.

Poles apart

From Mr Peter Howell

Sir, Your correspondent (February 26) signs herself Powell (as in Pole). I've always considered myself Howell (as in growl) but when, years ago, Robert Robinson read out a letter from me on *Points of View*, he managed to rhyme my surname with "cool". I've never actually been called Peter "Hole" though.

Yours sincerely,
PETER HOWELL,
Prospect House, Malpas, Cheshire.

From Mr Douglas Bruce
Sir, Miss Lucinda Powell looks forward to the day when she gets married, thereby assuming a surname less problematical in its pronunciation. What a happy alternative to doing the same by means of deed-poll (as in Powell).

Yours faithfully,
D. G. BRUCE,
Rümelinbachweg 12,
CH-4054, Basle, Switzerland.
Sir, Introduced to an audience as Baden Pole, the great Chief Scout replied that his name was "Baden Powell, as in bathing towel".
Yours ever,
MICHAEL SCOTT,
87a Cornwall Gardens, SW7.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 2: This afternoon The Princess Royal visited Hampshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt).

Her Royal Highness, President, Rural Housing Trust, opened a new housing scheme at Culverley Close, Brockenhurst, New Forest.

Afterwards The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, visited the Fund's shop at 18 High Street, Lymington.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Royal Lymington Yacht Club, attended the Annual Cruising dinner at Lymington and was received by the Commodore (Air Vice-Marshal Sir Alan Boxer).

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

March 2: The Duke of Kent this evening attended the 25th Churchill Memorial Concert by the Portsmouth Sinfonietta in aid of the Music Therapy Charity Limited at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxford.

Commander Roger Walker, RN was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE March 3: Princess Alexandra this evening opened the Commonwealth Carnival, held in aid of Sight Savers (The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind) of which Her Royal Highness is President, at Clifton College, Bristol.

Princess Alexandra was received by Mr Robert Berrys, Deputy Lieutenant of Avon.

The Lady Mary Mounford was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.R. de C. Cassano

and Dr L.S. Ostler
The engagement is announced between William Benedict de Cassano, youngest son of Mr Anthony de C. Cassano, of The Hospital of St Cross, Winchester, and Mrs Cecilia Cassano, of Fulham, London, and Lucy Sinclair, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Gordon Ostler, of Bickley, Kent.

Mr H.G.B. Derrick and Miss A.M.J. Hanson
The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mrs Meg Maxwell, of Ilford, Oxford, and of the late Mr Peter Derrick, and stepson of the late Mr Peter Maxwell, and Arabella, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Hanson, of Budby Castle, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Mr J.M.W. Hampton and Miss T.G. Ward
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr Nicholas Hampton, of Sydney, Australia, and Mrs Valerie Hampton, of Lytton Grove, Putney, SW15, and Tamsyn, daughter of Mr John Ward, of Weyland Park, Chesham, Bucks, and Mrs W.G. Fearnley-Whittinghall, of Spinghill, Eastington, Gloucestershire.

Mr M.A.G. Isaacs and Mr B. A. Abraham
The engagement is announced between Michael, twin son of Mr and Mrs George Isaacs, of Yeovil, Somerset, and Beverly, younger daughter of the late Mr and Mrs William Watson, formerly of Esher, Surrey.

Mr W.E. James and Miss L.C. Blackett
The engagement is announced between William Keith, son of Mr and Mrs Keith James, of Norton Curlew, near Warwick, and Lorna Christine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Blackett, of Merrow, Guildford.

Mr C.G. Murray and Mrs R.M.P. Eames
The engagement is announced between Crawford, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.G. Murray, of Basset, Southampton, and Rowena, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Robin Eames, of Houlton, Devon.

Mr H.M. Walker

and Mrs M.B. Swiney
The engagement is announced between Miles Walker, of Bleak House, Rowton, Telford, Shropshire, and Tina Swiney (née Brathwaite), of Low Bird Dyke, Llanfyllbach, Wrexham, Cumbria.

Mr M. Wragg and Miss S.G. Harvey
The engagement is announced between Martin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P.M. Wragg, of Morningside, Edinburgh, and Suzanne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T.M.G. Harvey, of Conham, Norfolk.

Mr I.G. Clearkin and Miss K.E. Varley
The marriage took place on Saturday, at St Paul's, Reading, between Rory Clearkin and Karen Elizabeth Varley.

Mr R.D.S. Hebbeler and Mrs L.R. Giles
A service of blessing was held at The Queen's Chapel, the Savoy, after the marriage in London, on Friday, of Mr Roland Hebbeler and Mrs Scraps Giles. The Rev John Robson officiated.

Mr R. Hamilton-Godley and Mrs S.R. Oates
The marriage took place on March 2, at Reading, between Rory Hamilton-Godley and Sheila Barbara Oates (née Mottershead). The ceremony and reception were attended by the bride's and bridegroom's children and grandchildren.

Mr D.C. Maybank and Miss L.J. Sims
The marriage took place in Edinburgh, on Saturday, February 23, 1991, of David Maybank, son of Mr and Mrs John Maybank, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, to Irene, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric J. Sims, Guadalupe, Spain, formerly of Glasgow. The Rev W. J. McLeod, read, officiated.

Birthdays today

Sir Arthur Bryan, Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, 68; Sir John Carew Pole, former Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, 89; Mr Kenny Delgish, the former football manager, 40; Mr Graham Dowling, cricketer, 54; Professor H. J. Eysenck, psychologist, 75; Mr Harvey Goldsmith, pianist, 45; Mr Bernard Haitink, conductor, 62.

Mr John Hunt, former headmaster, Redwood School, 59; Lord Johnston of Rockport, 87; Mr Ralph Kirshbaum, cellist, 45; Mr Stuart Mawson, otiologyologist, 73; Mr Patrick Moore, astronomer, 68; Mr Alan Silbton, writer, 63; Mr Peter Skellern, composer and singer, 44; Sir Keith Stuart, chairman, Associated British Ports Holdings, 51; Lord Vivian, 55.

Godstowe Preparatory School, High Wycombe

The School Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Frances Hanson, BA, to be Headmistress with effect from September 1, 1991. Mrs Hanson is presently Deputy Head of Thornton College, Milton Keynes.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Antonio Vivaldi, composer, Venice, 1678; Sir Henry Raeburn, the portrait painter, Edinburgh, 1756; Giovanni Schiaparelli, astronomer, Savignano, Italy, 1835.

DEATHS: Saladin, sultan of Egypt, 1174-93; Damascus, 1193; Bernard Gilpin, the Apostle of the North, Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, 1583; Jean François Champollion, Egyptologist, Paris, 1832; Nikolay Gogol, dramatist and novelist, Moscow, 1852; William Willett, originator of "daylight saving", Chislehurst, Kent, 1915; William Carlos Williams, physician and poet, Rutherford, New Jersey, 1963.

Henry VI was deposed by Edward, Duke of York (Edward IV), 1461; restored October 1470. The first meeting of Congress in New York, 1789. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution was founded, 1824. The Forth Bridge was opened, 1890. The first North Sea gas was piped ashore off Durham, 1967.

Barfield School, Farnham

The Governors of Barfield School have appointed Mr Barry Hoar, presently at Hawford Lodge School, Worcester, to succeed Mr David Warburton, who retires at the end of the summer term, 1991, after 27 years as headmaster.

Nature notes

FIELDFARES that wintered here are beginning to return to the fields, then set off in a large, loose, chattering flock, flying high and heading east. Larks are back in the fields: they climb sharply into the air, then tumble and dive, their black and white wings flashing. As they fly, they cry out urgently with their familiar "pewit" call; as they fly off, their wings produce a strange thrumming note.

On the moors, curlews are beginning their display flights: they, too, rise steeply, but hang on quivering wings as their bubbling cry rings out faster and faster, then glide down into the heather again. Lacking song-perches in open country, this is their way of announcing widely that they own the territory around them.

Snowdrops are out everywhere, in small clumps under the willows, or in brilliant white



FIELDFARE

cascades down wooded hill-sides. But most flowers are backward compared with the last spring. A few snowdrops are out, but most of the crocuses are only just beginning to show a silver glint as the buds break. In running ditches, wild watercress is growing thick leaves that stream out beneath the surface.

DJM

OBITUARIES

EDWIN LAND

Edwin Herbert Land, the inventor of instant photography and founder of the Polaroid Corporation, died on March 1 aged 81. He was born on May 7, 1909.

POLAROID sunglasses and 60-second photography were just two of the better known achievements through which Edwin Land revolutionised the world of optics in a career during which he amassed over 500 patents. Yet in spite of professorships at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a string of honorary doctorates, Land was not an academic in the conventional sense and, indeed, never took a first degree from Harvard.

Edwin Herbert Land was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut. His father was a landowner and ran a scrap iron business. Land's first and perhaps most resounding discovery, was the result of an evening stroll down Broadway when he was 17 and a freshman at Harvard. He was struck by the glare from competing theatre and billboard lights and pondered a method of eliminating it. He applied himself with single minded dedication to the challenge, taking time off from his course at Harvard, and at the age of 20, announced his polarising filter. This eventually became the mainstay of the Polaroid Corporation which he set up in 1937 to market his inventions. It was the first of many discoveries in the optical field that eventually embraced work for gun sights and aerial surveillance during the second world war and afterwards. The camera in the U2 spy plane was built utilising his patents. The instant X-ray photograph was another of his achievements.

Land's name is also associated with the system which eventually led to instantaneous dry photographs in colour. As with the polarising lens, Land's inspiration to investigate this possibility led to instant photography being



born of an innocent curiosity. In 1941 while he was on holiday with his family in New Mexico, his five-year-old daughter asked him why she could not see immediately the photograph her father had taken of her. His mind set to work. He later recalled:

"Within an hour the camera, the film and the physical chemistry became so clear that with a great sense of excitement I hurried to the place where a friend was staying to describe to him in detail a dry camera which would give a picture immediately after exposure. In my mind it was so real that I spent several hours on the description." Nevertheless it was not until 1948 that the Polaroid system of instant photography was put on sale. Early instant

photography meant bulky equipment and the process itself was a messy one. But Land developed the system, refining it over the next 30 years until, in 1972, the SX-70 system provided the first pocket sized instant camera able to deliver dry colour photographs.

Land built the Polaroid Corporation as a business with the same tenacity he applied to developing his scientific discoveries. It was run in accordance with rigid principles, reflecting its founder's conservatism which nevertheless went hand in hand with a sense of fairness. In its early years the company was never allowed to borrow money, choosing instead to finance its own research and product development. Land

fostered attitudes of self development in employment, encouraging his workforce to vary their jobs and learn new skills. With giants such as IBM, Polaroid became one of the legends of US business. By 1970 sales had reached half a billion dollars and \$1,000 invested in the company in 1938 was worth \$3 million. In later years Polaroid instituted suits for infringement of its copyright, notably against Eastman Kodak over its introduction of an instant photography package. The conflict was eventually settled in Polaroid's favour.

Up to the time of his retirement in 1982 when he gave up his active directorship and became honorary chairman, it was always considered that Polaroid's most valuable asset was its founder's knack of coming up with new, practicable ideas. True to his scientific background, he always maintained that financial profit should never be the only criterion for running the business. This led to several failures, most notably Land's persistent attempts from the 1930s onwards to eliminate glare from car headlights. Despite years of research he failed to find a workable, affordable system that could stand bad weather. In the field of photocopying he was beaten by Xerox, whose system was more advanced than his own. His plans for three-dimensional movies floundered after a brief public enthusiasm in the 1950s.

Land was on *Life* magazine's list of the 100 most important Americans of this century and his personal fortune was estimated as being somewhere between \$500m and \$1,000m. But for a man of his wealth he lived modestly and shunned publicity about his private life. He gave freely to scientific research.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Maiken, whom he married in 1929, and their two daughters.

RANJAN WIJERATNE



Ranjan Wijeratne, Sri Lanka's minister of plantation industries and minister of state for defence, was killed by a car bomb on March 1 aged 59. He was born in April 1931.

RANJAN Wijeratne was in effect the second in command in President Ranasinghe Premadasa's administration. As official spokesman for the government after the weekly cabinet meetings he was noted for never miming his words when he answered questions from journalists. Indeed, in May last year, when the government was having peace talks with Tamil separatists of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) he was so vigorous in his defence of the government's bona fides that he threatened to file a journalist who said he had evidence the LTTE were preparing for war. Ironically, a month later, Wijeratne was in the forefront in the campaign against the

LTTE as virtual commander-in-chief of the armed forces while the LTTE attacked 17 police stations in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces.

Ranjan Wijeratne was educated at St Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka. After working for many years as a tea planter, he came into public prominence when he took over as chair-

man of the ruling United National Party (UNP) in 1988 after the earlier chairman had been assassinated by Sinhala extremists of the JVP (People's Liberation Front). It was a job for which there were no other takers. When the secretary of the UNP was also assassinated he succeeded to that post too and helped to hold the party together when many were deserting its ranks because of death threats from the JVP.

Nominated to parliament in 1989, Wijeratne was made minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defence when the new cabinet was sworn in. He is largely held responsible for the destruction of the JVP, which was virtually holding the country to ransom in 1989 with wild-cat strikes and a campaign of violence. But he was also blamed by some for excesses committed by the security forces in the south.

A natural leader, he was often at the war front in the island's northern and eastern provinces, talking not only to the soldiers but also to the people. A man who did not mince words, he made plenty of enemies but was respected for his honesty and dedication. A week ago he departed a foreign casino owner whom he accused of being involved in immoral activities.

He was given to dramatic parliamentary gestures. When there were queries on the defence vote by the opposition, he brought a catapult to parliament and asked his critics whether they wanted him to defend the nation using such weapons. He used a bullet-proof car but it had no power to stop the powerful bomb which ended his life. A colonel of the Sri Lankan army, he was promoted posthumously to general.

He leaves his widow, Delande, and a son.

Richard Harries

Importance of winning the peace

THE following is an edited version of the Bishop of Oxford's address to the diocesan synod on Saturday.

I WANT to deal with some of the deeper questions that (Gulf) war, especially as they bear on the mission of the church in this country. The Christian approach to international relations and politics generally can best be described as one of hopeful realism. The word hope comes first. In contrast to all tired resignation to things as they are, to all disillusioned cynicism, the Gospel comes as the possibility, indeed the promise, of change.

So whatever the difficulties and disappointments that lie ahead we must continue to hold out hope, especially at this time, for the Middle East. During this conflict there has been shown a truly remarkable degree of international co-operation and resolve. Our hope must be that the same co-operation and determination is brought to bear by peaceful means on some of the other long-standing problems in the area.

During this conflict the United Nations has gained a new authority and strength. Our hope must be that it is strengthened even further. As a result of the victory of the coalition forces, international law and respect for the integrity of national boundaries has been upheld, albeit by the use of devastating force which has been painful for us all. Our hope must be that respect for international law throughout the world is enhanced, that international criminals and bullies, wherever they are, will be less inclined to treat small states.

But the Christian faith is one of hopeful realism. In contrast to all sentimentality and Utopianism we recognise the character of the world for what it is and know that we have always to work within very severe constraints. So we know that this is

not a war to end all wars; at the best it can bring a little bit more justice and security to the region. We will not think that by defeating Iraq or getting rid of Saddam Hussein all problems in the area will be solved, even though there will be easier than they would otherwise have been if he remained. Christians should be realistic because we take seriously the sin of the world, of which this was but one expression.

But an awareness that we live in a fallen world needs to avoid two dangers. First, the danger of self-righteousness. This was, I believe, morally necessary to fight. But the faults and flaws and sins which led to this war are in us all. In particular, at the political level, we are all aware of how far so long the West overlooked gross violations of human rights in Iraq, how it engaged in almost unrestrained arms sales to her, and how self-interest as well as moral principle has been involved in this conflict.

No less of a danger, however, is moral relativism. We can sometimes be so conscious of the faults on both sides that moral paralysis takes hold. This happened in the cold war when some people suggested that capitalism and totalitarian communism were equally flawed and said, in effect, a plague on both their houses. They were not equally flawed, as the overnight demolition of communism by people under its sway has shown so dramatically. Similarly, there have been those in this conflict who have pointed out the sins of nations in the Arab coalition that they have wanted to inhibit any determined response to Saddam Hussein's naked aggression.

Although we are all partly to blame, and no nation is without fault, yet choices have to be made. If it is not possible to see the moral distinction between Saddam Hussein's cruelties

and, for example, a Western oil interest, then it is not possible to see any moral distinction.

During this conflict the Christian Church has never lost sight of the fact that the Iraqi people are brothers and sisters, and many of them are brothers and sisters in Christ. We have longed for the overthrow of tyranny and the opportunity to renew friendships.

For many years the Iraqi people, especially the Kurds, have had to suffer under the tyrannous cruelty of Saddam Hussein and his regime. Our quarrel has not been with them and we will want to do all we possibly can to make that clear. But from this point arises another. The necessity in the future of giving greater priority to the world's political agenda to flagrant violations of human rights. The long, detailed catalogue of cruelties in Iraq has been before the world for some time. Why have we done nothing about it? Quite simply, because as so often in the past, balance of power considerations have been given priority.

Christians should have a particular interest in human rights, because they are about particular individuals, particular individuals who are being imprisoned, tortured and killed, who are unable to speak or worship freely.

We can no longer tolerate a world in which traditional balance of power considerations are given priority over the suffering inflicted on individuals by their governments. Furthermore, we need to be vigilant about our own and American soldiers and civilians who stand behind them, alike. This is not to withdraw from the questions of politics and ethics. There is a political peace which still has to be won and there are always ethical questions with which to wrestle. But there is a contradiction, a conflict in life, in the depths of which we find the peace of Christ.

At a time like this, not only during the conflict but perhaps especially after such a decisive victory, nationalistic feelings are to the fore. It is right to be grateful to the country and culture by

SERGE GAINSBOURG

Serge Gainsbourg, French pop singer and composer, was found dead in his Paris apartment on March 2 aged 62. He was born on April 2, 1928.

SERGE Gainsbourg is likely to be remembered less for his contribution to French pop music than for the degenerate image he cultivated. As a singer he started out in the mainstream of French popular music as it was in the Sixties and thereafter adapted skilfully to changes in public taste to retain for himself a following among successive generations of pop fans. None of this would have brought him much standing in the international — that is to say largely English-speaking — pop world, without the series of shocking gestures which accompanied the output of songs.

These were presented as the natural fall-out from a dissolute and riotous life but were carefully calculated. Thus the 1969 song "Je t'aime, moi non plus" which made him notorious in Britain through its being ostensibly a recording of an erotic encounter between Gainsbourg and his companion of that time, the British actress Jane Birkin, was, of course, a studio construction with both being passionate on their own in separate booths. But it worked on the fevered imagination of Sixties Britain, the fact that one of the participants was a British girl doubtless adding to its titillating effect on the Anglo-Saxon mentality. Thereafter an attack on the song by the Vatican newspaper, *Osservatore Romano*, and a ban on the song in Italy only doubly ensured its runaway success in the charts of many countries.

Serge Gainsbourg was born Lucien Ginsburg, the son of a Russian émigré nightclub pianist, Joseph Ginsburg. He was educated at Paris's Lycée Condorcet, from which he was thrown out for indiscipline, and at the École nationale supérieure des beaux arts. He started his working life as a pianist and guitarist at the Paris cabaret Milord l'Armoirille in the 1950s. He also began composing and won the grand prix de l'Académie Charles-Cros for his first album, *Du Chant à la Une* in 1959. Besides his more fringe writing he also created songs for vocalists such as Petula Clark and Juliette Gréco.

In 1960 he began a film

career with a part in *Voulez-vous danser avec moi?* and thereafter appeared in a number of features with such characteristic titles as *Erotissimo* (1969) and *Cannabis* (1970). He also composed the scores for a number of films, notably *Les Loups dans la bergerie*, *L'Eau à la bouche* and *Le Jardinier d'Argenteuil*.

He met Jane Birkin on the set of the film *Slogan* (1968) which was being directed by Pierre Grimblat. Their relationship lasted 12 years and produced a daughter, Charlotte, who is herself a cinema actress.

Gainsbourg also had a career as an actor and presenter on television where he seldom failed to come up



with behaviour calculated to scandalise audiences. On one occasion he was criticised for burning a 500-franc note on a live show. On another — this time the popular family music programme *Champs Élysées* — he made earthily explicit suggestions to the singer Whitney Houston to the predictable outrage of 17 million viewers, his employers at Channel 2 and Miss Houston herself. But such affronts were a carefully calculated part of his broadcasting persona, as was a reggae version of the French national anthem the *Marseillaise*, which brought threats of violence from right wing groups in France.

Gainsbourg's health suffered badly from his excessive drinking and smoking and he suffered a succession of heart attacks as well as having to have two thirds of his liver removed in 1989.

In recent years he had lived with Caroline von Paulus (better known as the model Bambou), by whom he had a son. A marriage earlier in his life to Françoise Pannozzi was dissolved.

SYDNEY TAPPER-JONES

Sydney Tapper-Jones, the last town clerk of Cardiff, died on February 2 aged 86. He was born on March 12, 1904.

SYDNEY Tapper-Jones gave distinguished service to the city of Cardiff for 43 years, becoming town clerk in 1942. Upon his retirement the office ceased to exist, being merged into that of chief executive. In the performance of his civic duties he supported 27 lord mayors — all very different in character and personality — and gained the respect of them all. In council and in committee he never sought to

usurp the right of the elected member. As clerk of the peace he sat with many of the city's great recorders, most of whom became high court judges and in one case a Lord Chancellor. His presence at the Quarter Sessions added an air of dignity.

When the city was created capital of Wales in 1955 much work devolved upon him — and he was masterly in the preparation of Parliamentary bills and boundary redistributions. No ceremonial occasion was complete without him. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and a daughter.

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a performance of *Miss Saigon* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, at 7.35 in aid of the Entertainment Artists' Benevolent Fund.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the British Deaf Association, will receive the chairman and chief executive at Kensington Palace at 11.00; and, as Patron of Relate, will attend the Family of the Year Award luncheon at the Inn on the Park Hotel at 12.45.

The Princess Royal will visit ICI specialities business headquarters, Blackley, Manchester, at 11.00; will view the Salford Phoenix Initiative's (Northern Gateway) exhibition on display in Manchester Cathedral at 12.00; will attend a luncheon at Chesham School at 12.30; will visit Winton Girls' School at 1.30 to mark its centenary; and visit Stockport Institute for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb at Waltham House, 112 Shaw Heath, Stockport, at 2.45. Later, she will attend the World Master Chefs Society's dinner at Claridge's hotel, London, at 7.45.

The Duchess of Gloucester will visit RAF Stafford at 10.30 to meet servicemen and the families of servicemen engaged in Operation Granby.

Princess Alexandra will attend a concert at the Barbican at 7.00 in aid of the RSPB.

The following scholarship awards have been made for September 1991:

Senior English Scholarship: Carl Latham, Chesham School; Senior French Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Music Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Science Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Sports Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Art Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Drama Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior History Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Geography Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Modern Languages Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Mathematics Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Computing Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Design Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Business Studies Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Economics Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Law Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; Senior Social Studies Scholarship: Peter Huxford, Chesham School; 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Drinking in the Holy Spirit: young worshippers at St Barnabas, in London, participate in the charismatic experience that is, a survey says, attracting new churchgoers

Seven o'clock on a Sunday evening at St Barnabas Church of England church, Kensington, west London. In the predictable Anglican barn, a spotlight band of drums and guitars is strumming "Jesus is Lord" on the chancel steps. And the church is filling with hundreds of bright-faced young people in their twenties and thirties, many in sweaters and jeans after a country weekend.

There's a low, happy buzz, as if a concert is about to begin. The opening hymn is of the swinging, uplifting kind and soon has a fair section of the congregation waving its arms in the air. Later in the service, led by the Rev John Irvine, in maroon jumper and grey trousers, people queue to bear witness to the power of Jesus, Mr Irvine announces what he calls Words of Knowledge, cries for help that have sprung into the minds of church leaders during prayer — from God, they would say. If "Hans, who has been rejected, and Mary in a wheelchair, who might have MS", are present, they are invited to join the others who will come forward after the service, seeking comfort from the team of spiritual counsellors waiting at the altar.

Traditional Anglicans would curl at the toes. This is the Charismatic Renewal, the new Church of England at prayer. Charismatic churches (where commitment to Christ is believed to bring, as to the disciples at Pentecost, the empowering of the Holy Spirit), together with evangelical churches, attracted the most new followers in the late Eighties, according to a survey

Praise the Lord, and pass the plate

released today. At St Barnabas the charismatic effect has been dramatic. Five years ago, the church had an ageing congregation of 20 on a good day, a roof in terminal decline and a caretaker vicar. It was yet another church which appeared to be headed for closure. Then a team from nearby Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB), a charismatic Anglican church already bursting at the seams, took it over as part of a "church plant".

'We wanted to stay within Anglicanism'

Church planting — sending cells of parishioners to deliver the charismatic message to susceptible churches — is a controversial technique that threatens a row within the established church. St Barnabas is a striking example of a successful plant. More than 1,000 worshippers now regularly attend the two Sunday services.

Mr Irvine's geniality and quiet presence overlay a shrewd intellect and determined strength of purpose. The son of Sir Arthur Irvine, the former Solicitor-General and Labour MP, and the brother of Michael Irvine, the Tory MP, he read law at Sussex university. He practised at the bar until, after "an early middle life crisis", in his late twenties, he decided — with his wife, Andy's,

The Church of England is rocking to a charismatic beat, Anne Woodham reports

support — to enter the ministry. He came across the charismatic renewal shortly after his marriage: "Andy and I were struck by its warmth, authenticity and life."

His first, and only, curacy was spent at HTB. By 1985, the Rev John Collins, the vicar at HTB, was looking for ways to accommodate his overflowing congregation. "We wanted to stay within the denomination and framework of Anglicanism," Mr Irvine says, "it's the most effective way to work in Britain."

Because of the size of the St Barnabas building, it was decided to transfer "in strength", and 101 members of Holy Trinity volunteered to join Mr Irvine at St Barnabas. The then Bishop of Kensington, the Right Rev Mark Sauter, agreed to the project.

The immediate problems were practical: no heating and a collapsing roof. "We had a Gift Day," Mr Irvine says, "and raised £20,000. I believe that God is the most important person in your life, and

would encourage all Christians who think likewise to give Him their best in time, energy, talents and money. A chequebook is a good indication of where your heart really lies."

Not only are members of St Barnabas actively persuaded to tithing, donating one tenth of their income, if not entirely to the church, then to

deserving causes, but there are also regular appeals. The Church Commissioners pay Mr Irvine's stipend and that of his curate, Mike Clarkson, an American, but St Barnabas can afford five full-time staff and two part-timers.

A parish's contribution to the Common Fund, which maintains churches and schools throughout the London diocese, is calculated according to the number of people on the electoral roll. At St Barnabas, with its eclectic congregation, the roll is a means of registering those at the pastoral core and so, despite the hundreds who flock in every Sunday, it numbers only 312. Its Common Fund quota, therefore, is less than that of other, half-empty churches.

Mr Irvine denies St Barnabas pays less than its fair share. He says £330,000 had to be spent on restoring the church, without an

allowance from the Common Fund, and a more equitable arrangement is under negotiation. None the less, while the principle of supporting the wider church is a good one, "the present system discourages growth", he argues.

And growth is St Barnabas's business. Welcome teams greet visitors and invite them to a newcomers' tea. They may then join a ten-week introductory course, at the end of which they are encouraged to make a commitment to God and to St Barnabas.

Some, from non-Christian backgrounds, elect for baptism by total immersion in a fibreglass pool under the nave. Mr Irvine agrees that it is difficult not to make it all sound like entry into a cult.

'The system discourages growth'

But it is the question of spiritual gifts that most exercises critics of the charismatic movement. Such a gift is that of speaking in tongues. Mr Clarkson, the curate, describes it as a disengagement of the mouth and tongue that enables prayer on a different spiritual plane. Other gifts — and there are said to be at least nine — include healing, casting out demons and wisdom and knowledge, as demonstrated by the Words of Knowledge.

"Christians believe in a supernatural God who cares for people," Mr Irvine explains. "We believe that His concern is real and imminent, and that He speaks through the Bible, through preaching, and through gifts. Like any good thing, there are dangers. Spiritual gifts without love are dangerous, but love without spiritual gifts can be perilous."

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Telling tales on the exiled Irish

Joseph O'Connor — a member of the 'Murphias' and the controversial Sinead's elder brother — is an artist with a mission

What distinguishes Joseph O'Connor's book from your average first novel is the erratum slip, which reads: "One of the characters in this novel, Dean Bean, seems occasionally to think his name is Charlie. This sad and probably drug-induced delusion occurs on pages 4, 32, 60, 108 and 110." This perfectly indicates the content of the entire work — Dublin's last Mohican punk comes to London to seek fortune as rock star, meets girl on boat, falls in love, fails a bit, grows up a bit, and gets to grips with his mum and dad. The usual middle-class coming of age novel, in fact, although this one, *Cowboys and Indians* (published by Sinclair-Stevenson on March 18, priced £12.95) is at least witty.

The name Dean Bean was based on a friend, Charlie Barley. His real name was Charlie Butcher but he changed it by deed poll when he became a vegetarian. I couldn't let that go to waste."

Mr O'Connor says. The interest in him as a novelist has a lot to do with people trying to spot which parts of real life have seeped into the pages, for the author is the elder brother of Sinead O'Connor, the shaven-headed Irish singer who came to London to seek her fortune, fall in love, etc, etc.

Mr O'Connor denies it. "It's not based on Sinead's experience at all. Thing is, Eddie Virago, the hero, has no talent whatsoever as a musician, and she has. He just thinks he can blag his way to the top." Like many a teenage boy, Mr O'Connor fancied himself as a guitarist, particularly during the punk era, but "I was crap, so it was far more practical to write."

He is different from his sister in every way. He is sort of square-jawed, with big black glasses, where she is elfin. Politically, he makes sense. There will be no "Sinead the She-Devil" type headlines in *The Sun* for him. He is not about to publicly sympathise with Iraq or the IRA. Asked if he is on a different planet from his sister, he says: "Different solar system more like." They are not particularly close, but he is fond of her and proud of her achievements. She remains a baggage he must carry around. When he won the 1989 New Irish Writer of the Year Award, a headline read: "Brother wins literary award."

Irish writers are used to baggage of different sorts, but Mr O'Connor, aged 27, avoids plumbing the Catholic, guilt-ridden, nationalist stuff. His writing is about being Irish in exile. He came to London in 1986 after studying at University College, Dublin. "I've no interest at all in living in Dublin again for the moment," he says. "I came here because I couldn't get a job there. It's a great place for weekends, but eventually the qual-

ities of the place become its faults. It's very friendly, but if you're there for any length of time it's a drag that you can't walk down the street without meeting everybody. It becomes a pressure."

Mr O'Connor was probably also escaping his family life. His parents split up when he was 12 — not an ordinary event in the divorcee's republic. "I always have to think hard when people ask me whether I lived with my mum or dad. The four of us were shuttled between them depending on who won custody, and there was a bit of running away from one to the other. It was very messy, very unpleasant and not the happiest period in any of our lives."

This experience underlies his book. The 24-year-old Virago is an appalling liar and philanderer. Mr O'Connor says that is because



Joseph O'Connor: revenge

Virago cannot come to terms with his parents' marriage being over. "When you understand your parents are just people like you, as entitled as you are to make mistakes, that's when you're not a child any more."

Almost all of the author's contemporaries have left Dublin. He says the Irish newspapers

make much of the middle-class brain drain replacing the traditional hordes of brickeys crossing the water for economic survival. "No one is very keen to admit we export a lot of our problems — unemployment, homelessness and unmarried mothers. And there is a bit of escaping from the oppressive morality, too."

He is annoyed by the Irish belief that if you do not legislate for something, it will not happen. He points out that about 7,000 Irish women come to Britain each year for abortions, and there are about 70,000 people living in second relationships. "We live with these ludicrous double standards." He thinks Irish women are keen to see change, and is heartened by the appearance of the Independent Mary Robinson as president. "It's stunning. The chances of getting a left-wing liberal woman elected to be head of anything, even a local horticultural society, were tiny before. It's a sign of what might happen."

In the meantime, the Irish are still moving to London. "I don't want it to be Dublin on the Thames. I've got lots of English friends, too." The book refers to the exiles as "the Yuppies of Murphias", of which Mr O'Connor is no doubt part. He grins. "It's revenge for 800 years of political oppression. We're coming over here to take over the media and everything else."

KATE MUIR

"If we had our own lottery, it would mean better schools for our children"



In America gambling is being sold to voters to help pay for public services like education. The **TES** reports

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Mind the children, please

Why the childminder has become an attractive option for career women

ON WEDNESDAY the Duchess of York will be at the finals of the Childminder of the Year campaign, and present the award to the winner. While childminders may not yet be by royal appointment, they are no longer simply a cheap option for working mothers who cannot afford a nanny or private day nursery. A growing number of career women are convinced that a childminder is a real — and often preferable — alternative to other forms of childcare.

The change in public perception is due largely to the efforts of the National Childminding Association (NCA), which was set up in 1977 to improve the status, conditions and standards of childminding. One of the necessities of the award, jointly organised by Peardouce, the nappy manufacturer, and the NCA, is to highlight the quality of care provided by Britain's 70,000 registered childminders.

If a working mother has only one child, a childminder is much cheaper than a nanny (the NCA suggests a minimum of £1.10 an hour, or £45 a week). When two or more children are involved, the gap between childminding costs and the wages for a newly qualified nanny narrows. But employing a nanny involves dealing with her tax and national insurance (childminders are self-employed), and household bills are likely to be higher if children are cared for in their own home.

Cost is just part of the equation. Annamaria Critchard, a senior systems analyst with British Gas, has two children, Bryn, three, and Aidan, eight months, who both go to a childminder near their south London home. "We decided we didn't want a nanny because we disliked the idea of sharing our home," Ms Critchard says. "Many nan-

nies are quite young, and I think I'd be more anxious leaving my children under these circumstances than with an experienced mother."

Ann Russell, Ms Critchard's childminder, has been doing the job for more than 20 years, three of them with the Critchards. Now aged 58, she has five children of her own. Mrs Russell says she prefers working for "professional" mothers because they are "more business-like — when they get a pay rise, they give me one. And you know they are not likely to chop and change. You won't get a child settled in only to find that the mother has given up her job and does not need you any more."

She believes that one reason why women prefer to use her services rather than those of a nanny is that "I can approach the job fresh each day. A nanny might have to get a child up and give him breakfast in the mornings and carry on all day right through bed and bedtime. I know that I can just shut the door at the end of the day and relax."

Louise Crocker, aged 34, a languages teacher from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, who considered switching to a nanny after the birth of her second baby, Benjamin, says she decided to stick with a childminder because she felt

more confident about the standard of care. "Even though a nanny may come with good references, you can actually go into a childminder's home and see the children and their surroundings. And, particularly if you are a first-time mother, the childminder's experience can be invaluable."

Sreelata Tottingham, a civil servant with the trade and industry department, has used a nanny in the past, but now sends four-year-old Leila to a private nursery, while one-year-old Naidia goes to a childminder. "With a live-in nanny you feel responsible for them," she says. "You have to

think about their meals, about introducing them to other nannies in order to make their life more congenial. A childminder tends to be someone local, who isn't going to vanish because they are home-sick or Greece beckons."

Of course, using a childminder has its down side. Getting children up and out on time in the mornings is time-consuming. But as Jan Burnell, the director of the NCA, says: "Childminders are usually experienced parents, they provide continuity of care and if they are members of a childminding group, emergency cover is often possible. All of these are important to parents who have high-pressure jobs."

LEE RODWELL

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Mother at work: Ann Russell with Bryn and Aidan Critchard

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BRIEFING

Revenge en suite

WHATEVER happened to *The Revenger's Comedy*, Alan Ayckbourn's study of the progress of the modern English counterpart to one of Webster or Kyd's malevolent Italian duchesses? The play was successful in Scarborough in 1989, but transfer to London looked perilous, since it came in two parts, lasting five hours. Now Michael Codron has reportedly persuaded Griff Rhys Jones and Joanna Lumley to join him in defying the commercial dangers. Look for an autumn opening in the West End.

Glasgow boys

ROBERT Palmer, director of Glasgow's year as European City of Culture, and his deputy, Neil Wallace, are to be jointly presented with the British International Theatre Institute's 1991 award for excellence in international theatre. A course organised by the Creative Dance Artists Trust at Breton Hall College receives the award for excellence in dance. The awards will be presented at the Theatre Museum on March 27, World Theatre Day.

Last chance...



José Carreras in superb vocal form as Samson

JOSE Carreras, singing at Covent Garden (071-240 1066) for the first time in five years after his recovery from leukaemia, has been showing fine form as Saint-Saëns's *Samson*, his voice stronger than ever, in one of the heaviest roles he could have been expected to attempt. Carreras, with Agnes Baltsa as Delila, is appearing for the last time tomorrow.

THEATRE

Life must go on beyond the fringe

Where is the theatrical avant-garde, now that we need it? Jim Hiley laments the dearth, or death, of innovatory drama in Britain today.

For 20 years, the term "fringe theatre" has been routinely employed by journalists, artists and members of the public. It conjures up an image of iconoclastic talents in makeshift studios, hammering out alternatives to the mainstream fire of regional rep, commercial venues and the two big national companies. But the present-day reality of the fringe could hardly be more different.

The output of most fringe theatres has, in all but scale, become identical to that of the established companies. There are but a handful of innovative groups, their activities the least adequately funded and least reported. "Fringe theatre" flattens the majority and devalues the minority. Once, the phrase denoted a vibrant avant-garde. Today, it camouflages the neglect of "research and development" in drama.

A glance at the fringe listings in two London guides shows how far the small theatres have absorbed the showbiz values of the serious mainstream. According to *Time Out* and *What's On*, the Bridge Lane Theatre, Battersea this week offers a completion of Broadway songs, mounted as a tribute to Elton John. At the Young Vic, meanwhile, Trevor Nunn — who is no stranger to Broadway — directs *Timon of Athens*, with another ex-RSC luminary, David Suchet, in the title role. Pub theatres are occupied by such staples of the repertoire as Chekhov, Ionesco and Strindberg, not to mention more Shakespeare and that perennial three-hander, Arbutov's *The Promise*.

Certain venues appear to be listed as "fringe" for historical reasons. Islington's Almeida Theatre, for example, was a hotbed of Euro-modernism under Pierre Audi. But during the past year, his successor, Ian McDiarmid, has recruited stars such as Claire Bloom and Glenda Jackson for a programme stronger on classical authors — Jonson, Racine and Ibsen — than new dramatists.

The Almeida's demise as a centre of innovation was sealed by its autumn production of *The Rehearsal*. When Anouilh's melodrama transferred to the West End, complete with costumes by Jasper Carran, it seemed merely to have reached its natural habitat.

There is no harm in Anouilh, of course, nor in glamorous names working in small spaces. But the

transformation of the Almeida betokens a relentless trend, of which the Hampstead Theatre, no longer an experimental club as in its early days under James Roose-Evans, is another conspicuous example.

Subsidies once earmarked for seed-corn projects now support routine revivals and boulevard "tryouts". In this depressing situation, the anachronistic categories of the listings reflect foggy thinking among critics, which in turn reinforces conservative funding policies. Because the critics and the Arts Council patronise the fringe, we — and they — somehow imagine that innovation is flourishing. The reverse has been true for a long time.

The London fringe and *Time Out* grew up together in fact, for a while they seemed mutually dependent. Following the abolition of censorship in 1968, drama had sprouted in pubs, basements and converted chapels — even on street corners. Shoestring theatre became fashionable, then respectable. The National and the Royal Shakespeare Company built fringe studios, adding the Cortesloe and the Pit to plans for their new headquarters at the South Bank and the Barbican.

During the 1970s, plenty gave way to economic restraint, and the new theatres lost some of their cavalier spirit. At the same time, the national companies began to move the less fail-safe classics and contemporary plays out of their main houses and on to their purpose-made fringe.

Nowadays, the word fringe is almost meaningless, as *Time Out's* theatre editor, Jane Edwards, admits. She has, however, been unable to persuade her colleagues that all stage productions should be grouped together, as in the rival guide, *City Limits*. "There is a feeling that out-of-town visitors would be confused if pub rooms were listed with the big theatres on Shaftesbury Avenue," Edwards explains.

But the perpetuation of myths about the fringe compounds a dangerous injustice. This is poignantly illustrated by the shifting fortunes of the director, Ian Maclean.

Last year, Verma was acclaimed for his all-Asian version of *Tartuffe* at the National Theatre. By contrast with the Almeida's classics, this was no solid revival, but a



Daring unrevoked: a scene from the Tara Arts production of Molière's *Tartuffe*; the company is now facing extinction

freewheeling reinvention of Molière. Traditional Indian methods of performance were employed to contemporary ends, in a piece of total theatre unmistakably relevant to the resurgence of fundamentalism. This April, the show begins a worldwide tour, which seems likely

to win fresh kudos for British theatre.

Tartuffe is, however, a National production in name only. The cast and other creative talents were drawn entirely from the Tara Arts Group, which Verma has run for the past 15 years. Crucially, the future of Tara itself is now in jeopardy.

Wandsworth Borough Council has cut the company's grant, and it will soon cease production at its home base in Earlsfield. While the nation reaps the fruits of Verma's endeavour, the local authority is busy extinguishing its source.

Tara's problems are by no means unusual. Over the past decade, few mainstream theatres have been forced to shut permanently (though

with new styles. In addition, they seek a more wholly theatrical theatre, in which movement, design and the living presence of the actor are valued as highly as text. If their output were judged on its merits — and not diminished by the label "fringe" — they might be considered less dispensable.

"The word fringe suggests a kind of agit-prop drama that is now almost extinct," says Deborah Chadborn, of the theatre management group, Arts Admin. "But the funding bodies seem to believe that agit-prop is alive and well. They are just not in tune with new work any more."

Arts Admin handles a number of the most impressive "performance theatre" groups, including Graeme Miller's company and the Sheffield-based Forced Entertainment Theatre Co-operative, both of which have won awards in Barclays' imaginative New Stages scheme.

"Fringe is appropriate, though, in the sense that we are marginalised by the press," adds Chadborn. "Our productions never get the same kind of considered coverage as straightforward plays. Because our work

emphasises the visual and physical qualities of performance, critics make the mistake of thinking it has no intellectual content."

The vigour of drama as a whole depends on the health of the avant-garde. This is readily acknowledged by the National, which sees garnering the best of the fringe as part of its function: following the success of *Tartuffe*, Théâtre de Complicité has brought its kinetic reworking of Dürrenmatt's *The Visit* to the Lyttelton.

"I can foresee a dangerous situation," says Giles Croft, who ran the adventurous Gate Theatre in Notting Hill before joining the National as literary manager last year. "We need to be surrounded by companies doing new things. We will atrophy if there is nothing left to feed off."

This unhappy state of affairs might be avoided if the "fringe theatre" myth were laid to rest. Hampstead, Almeida and their ilk should be seen for what they are: part of the mainstream. Similarly, the true innovators must be recognised as such and supported wholeheartedly. The best hope for the future lies with them.

Because critics and the Arts Council patronise the fringe, we imagine that innovation is flourishing. The reverse has been true for a long time

OPERA

One in the eye for the purists

Chief theatre critic
Benedict Nightingale
on an operatic view of
a Shakespeare classic

Whatever else has been hit by recession in recent months, it has not been *King Lear*. In Britain last summer Gloucester's eye-balls were popping out up to 48 times per working week, and even now they are not securely in their sockets. The Renaissance Theatre production may have closed, the RSC may still be preparing to transfer the play from Stratford to London; but here is English National Opera keeping alive the *Lear* market with, among other things, an eye that sends red paint squirting a foot into the air.

Nor is it only the optical-magic surgery that proved spectacular at the Coliseum. At its best, Eike Gramsch's



Christopher Robson (left) as Edgar, Richard Angas as the blinded Gloucester

revival of Aribert Reimann's opera should thrill those who found both Nicholas Hymen's production for the RSC and Deborah Warner's at the National visually a bit arid. Moreover, those who are beginning to wonder if Gramsch really should be a house-proud matron pushed beyond endurance by male slobs, and Regan the hapless victim of a repressive upbringing, may find the evening's moral simplicities refreshing.

There is something here for every theatregoer and, if he or she is imaginatively open, for every theatre director as well. First, the caveats. The ENO should perhaps have reversed its practice and kept the libretto in German. Those even slightly familiar with Shakespeare will wince at what is, it seems, a translation of Claus Hennesberg's adaptation of an 18th-century version of the original. "He's an old man who no longer knows what's right and what's wrong," "I think 50 knights far too many" and "Regan triumphantly telling Gloucester of Edmund's treachery" ("He's on our side," this is the language of earnest social workers, anxious society hostesses, and malicious children, not of a hideously unjust universe.

The old theatrical rule does admittedly hold good to some extent: if you want to make something sound less silly, sing it rather than say it. But Reimann's score is all recitative, and as lacking in richness as in melody. Its dissonances

do not conceal all the libretto's flaws nor fully embody many of the emotions on display. Lear's reconciliation with Cordelia, the play's spiritual centre, could as well be a semi-conscious quarrel, for all the warmth that emerges. But there are certainly times when the text invites sardonic smiles from the bass section, distraught shrieks from the woodwind, rasps and growls from the orchestra as a whole. Any stage director would envy the atmosphere of fragmentation these create.

He would also envy the most exciting storm scene I have seen. The backcloth opens to reveal a square of stark white light filled with swirling cloud in whose billows, transparent paper wildly flutters and before whose force huge black drapes dance. Then the planked walkways that criss-cross the stage heave and plunge, leaving Monte Jaffe's doddering Lear to defy the engulfing clatter as best he can. The effect is to upstage the tempest simultaneously occurring in his mind, but the impression given instead, that he is the helpless victim of a cosmic gone berserk, seems equally true to the play.

This also fits Gramsch's obvious interest in the unequal battle of age and youth. Rarely has the divide seemed more extreme. Jaffe's Lear, for all his residual power, bends more than he stands and totters more than he walks, at one point collapsing into the

arms of the daughter he is impotently haranguing. Eric Shilling's Fool combines a gaunt face with the tattered white feathers and dowdy red comb of some decrepit rooster. Nigel Douglas's shivering Kent disappears prematurely from the action, presumably the victim of arthritis and hypothermia. Even Lear's knights look like battered cousins of the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*: joyless creatures in dull metal helmets who cower from Pryn's Canman's Goneril as she struts past, casually spitting into their faces.

With her black Mohican hairdo, tribal markings and gaudy green dress, she might have wandered in from some princely Kensington market. So might Maria Moll's Regan with her bright orange dreadlocks. There is no attempt to suggest that either of these snickering, baleful creatures is anything but evil, and out to destroy a father whose crime is being old and inconvenient. The effect is of course more strong than subtle. Visually, musically, verbally, this is not an evening for those wishing to explore the play's intricate innards or watch the shifting emotions of Shakespeare's characters. But then that is not the creative aim or claim. Rather, the opera offers a bold, trash gloss on Shakespeare's play. It is well worth discovering.

● Lear performances at the Coliseum are on Wednesday and on March 15, 19, 22 and 26

EXHIBITION: SCOTLAND

Turning over some old leaves

The National Library in Edinburgh is hosting an exhibition which celebrates the diamond anniversary of the National Trust for Scotland. It is called *Lairds, Libraries and Lullabies*, and as the alliterative title suggests, a degree of imagination has inspired the curatorial concept. Lively shows are rare in libraries and a soporific public reaction to any liaison between these two particular august bodies would be understandable, in this case, however, it would be unwarranted.

Testaments and toiletries — those staples of the stately home shop — seem to sum up the Trust's cosy, respectable image. But there are signs that an effort is being made to jazz it up.

You only have to see the public housing past the library display cases en route to the mummies in the British Museum to conclude that books are hard to exhibit in any arresting fashion. No matter how attractive the bindings, nor intriguing the authors' marginalia, books as objects are not gripping. The National Trust for Scotland has avoided the tedious trap by constructing a series of domestic settings. Children's books are displayed in a nursery, for example, while the publications of Mrs Beeton and her profession are set against a *batterie de cuisine*. The aim is to illuminate the cultural tastes of the previous owners of the home for which the Trust now cares, but the organisers have hydrated the dry facts of books with a monster element of fancy.



Lairds' prizes part of the library of Fyvie Castle

Andrew Gibbon Williams enjoys a show that proves books need not be boring

On his Scottish tour, the composer Chopin was irritated by the way his hosts constantly vaunted their distinguished ancestry, good connections and status. Here, several finely engraved armorial book-plates testify to the acuteness of his observations on the snobbery of well-born Scots. When Alexander J. Forbes-Leith, for example, was elevated to Lord Leith of Fyvie, out went the gun and in came the new, more impressive badge of property. A mammoth bible from the newly-restored House of Dun near Montrose contains an exhaustive, hand-written family tree.

This insular mentality, however, is properly balanced in this exhibition by evidence of the travel mania of Scotland's land-owning class. In the 18th century, Grand Tourism, especially in Italy, was dominated by Scots; then, in the 19th there was the Empire to run.

Books such as the *Universal Traveller* of 1779 must have graced many a breakfast nook. Two such bookcases are included here (National Trust approved replicas, in fact) as well as a handsome, carved library table and two very decorative globes, one geographic, the other astrological. Completing this partial 18th-century library are those obligatory Grand Tour souvenirs, the Venetian scenes, if not by Canaletto or Guardi, then by one of their better imitators.

Above all, the sophisticated 18th-century laird was a practical and philanthropic fellow who needed to consult tomes such as *A New System of Agriculture* to help him in his Enlightenment desire to "improve" his property. Unfortunately, this public-spirited attitude was too soon eclipsed by the desire to emulate his southern counterparts, Humphrey Repton's cut-out landscape gardening book replaced farming advice, the Palladian vista haphazard cottages and, most ungraciously in the Highlands, sheep the crofters.

Better-educated Scottish aristocrats often ventured into

typescript of *Peter Pan* is one of the more charming exhibits. When it comes to the nursery the range of books beside the china dolls and golliwogs is predictable. True, *Robinson Crusoe* was based on the Fifer, Alexander Selkirk, but would no Deane masterpiece have been found in any posh Victorian nursery? Was not *Alice Through the Looking Glass* ubiquitous? It is probable that, as the century progressed, the contents of Scottish landowners' libraries were not too dissimilar from their Sassenach equivalents.

● Lairds, Libraries and Lullabies at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh (031 226 4331). Mon to Fri 9.30-5, Sat 9.30-1, Sun 2-5, until Sunday.

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THEATRE

THEATRE

HARRY EYRES

DANCE

Vincent O'Shea as Baffin and Catherine Mack as Little Island

JEREMY KINGSTON

OPERA

Christopher Robson's tattered and then vengeful Edgar bears the mark of utter control both vocally and dramatically, and his father Gloucester (Richard Angas) shows a resonant bass voice and gauges his tragedy well. The ENO Orchestra plays Reimann's difficult textures confidently under Paul Daniel.

STEPHEN PETTIT

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 18

WRONG MOVE

Solution to competition problem (February 23): 1Rn8+. The winners are: Dr. S.H. Brooks, Ongar; Mrs N. Smith, Stafford; Mr. P. Leadaw, Cambridge.

ENTERTAINMENTS

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STEPHEN PETTIT**CINEMA GUIDE**

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

THEATRE GUIDE
Jeremy Kingston's assessment of
current theatre in London
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THE SHAPE OF THE TABLE David Edgar's empty argued, almost elegiac view of

TODAY'S EVENT

MAX ERNST: Ernst, whose centenary is being celebrated with a grand retrospective at the Tate, has a peculiar force and amazing skill as a painter involved with the Surrealist movement in France in the Twenties and

Lena Stolze as the girl uncovering her

■ **BILLY GOME** Siri Efran's misheard collection of one-liners centered around French as a gaudy topical puno fest.

Theatre Royal Haymarket SW1 (071-4000) *Unintended Consequences: Men*

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movement in Cologne, many of his disci-

Trumpeter who has never escaped from shadow of Miles Davis. In terms of hard-bop fireworks, however, he has left his Jazz Cats, 56 Parkway, London NW1 (071-254 4368), 8pm.

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BBC

6.00 Cee-fax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.15 Killy. Robert Killy-Sik chairs a topical discussion 9.55 Regional news and weather
10.00 News and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.30 Dish of the Day from Rosemary Moon 10.40 Going for Gold (r)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 People Today
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Wildlife Games: Just Frogs. Classic froggy moments from the BBC's Natural History Unit archives 12.20 Scans Today 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) 1.50 Going For Gold with Henry Kelly (r)
2.25 Stargate and Hutch starring Paul Michael Glaser and David Soul (r)
3.00 Head of the Class. American comedy series
3.30 Bazaar. Nerys Hughes presents the handy hints show
3.50 Radio Roo. The second of a five-part children's comedy series
4.05 Jimbo and the Jet Set (r) 4.10 Jackanory. Penelope Walton with part one of The Unlucky Family by Mrs Henry de la Pasture
4.25 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r) 4.40 Thundercats (r)
5.00 Newround 5.05 Blue Peter (Cee-fax)
5.35 Neighbours (r) Northern Ireland Sportsweek 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 One O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Morna Stuart. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Woman. Among tonight's guests is singer Jack Jones
7.30 Family Matters. Workaholics. Philip Tomenik talks to people with an obsession for work
8.00 Wildlife on One: Skyraider.
CHOICE. Drawing on the two staples of wildlife documentary, killing and nurturing, Skyraider presents a year-in-the-life portrait of the peregrine falcon described in Sir David Attenborough's commentary as "a winged aristocrat wearing the black hood of an assassin". The peregrine is shown swooping down from the blue and striking its talons into a favourite meal of pigeon. Peregrines hunting in pairs are said to be more than doubly effective. After this carnage, captured by the usual superb camerawork, it is a relief to turn to the gentler matters of courtship and procreation. But even here the poor pigeon is hardly left alone, as it is forced to provide itself with food for the young. The peregrine in the skies, thanks mainly to pesticides, the peregrine came close to extinction. Now it is back to pre-war numbers. Only the pigeons, presumably, are not amused. (Cee-fax)
8.30 Telling the Floor: It Takes Two to Tango.
CHOICE. A ballroom dancing sitcom from Aloha Productions, the company responsible for Birds of a Feather spends most of its first episode manoeuvring together the young couple who will be the show's main characters. In the circumstances judgement must be postponed, although Paul Maltin's script hints at a welcome bite. Most of the dramatic tension is between Brian (played by a television newcomer, Matthew Cottle) and his social-climbing blue-collar father (Tim Kinghorn) who is dismayed by the fact that his son is taking a job as a laboratory attendant. To die's further chagrin, since his actions are being watched by Brian's sister, his sights on becoming a star of the ballroom. Brian's search for a partner ends with Karen (Barbara Durrin), who has just ditched her previous man because of his sexual advances. It is difficult to imagine, allow young Brian being rejected for the same reason. (Cee-fax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Panorama: Gorbachev - A Tarnished Leader. Is the Soviet president becoming dictator? Gavin Hewitt reports from Moscow and Leningrad
10.10 Mancuso FBI. Robert Loggia stars as government agent Nick Mancuso tonight investigating the dodgy sale of a foundering airline company involving dark threats and labour unrest. Northern Ireland: Situations Vacant 10.40 Mancuso FBI
11.00 When I Get To Heaven. Booker Prize-winning novelist and film non-believer Ben Elton discusses his view of what happens after death. Northern Ireland: 11.25 When I Get to Heaven
11.30 Advice Shop looks at the problem of debt (r). Northern Ireland: 11.55-12.25am Advice Shop 12.00 Weather

BBC 2

7.10 Open University: The Enlightenment - Strawberry Hill
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
8.30 Daytime on Two. Zig Zag 8.50 Watch 9.05 A French adventure serial 9.20 Series designed to make religious worship more appealing to teenagers 9.40 Maths 10.00 Storytime 10.18 Music 10.40 Job bank 11.00 Zig Zag 11.22 Science for five and six-year olds 11.35 Good sport 11.55 Spanish 12.15 The world since 1945 12.35 Lifescore 1.00 Science in action 1.20 Greendaws 1.40 People on the move
2.00 News and weather followed by Storytime (r)
2.15 Around Westminster. Regional review of the Parliamentary week (r) 2.45 Behind the Scenes. David Vickery goes behind the scenes of Nature, which returns to BBC2 tomorrow with a report on children and the environment
3.00 News and weather followed by Songs of Praise from Westminster Abbey (r) (Cee-fax) 3.45 The Travel Show. A personal view of Guernsey (r) 3.50 News regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Word quiz hosted by Paul Coia
4.30 Fighting Talk. Anne Kellner talks to the writer Dr Rosalind Miles about her forthcoming novel on feminism and the future of the women's movement 5.00 News followed by Northern Arts. Martin Carthy, one of Britain's most influential folk guitarists, looks back over his career (r)
5.10 Film: Hold That Ghost (1984, b/w) Comedy starring Bud Abbott and Lou Costello as two patrol station attendants who inherit a haunted house after a gangster is murdered. Slow to start but with some good moments. For those who find Abbott and Costello less than hilarious, there are Mischief Makers and the close-harmony Andrews Sisters. Directed by Arthur Lubin
6.35 DEF It begins with The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Comedy series starring one-time rapper Fresh Prince as Will Smith, a poor boy with rich relatives 7.00 Snub. New bands singles and indie music plus videos interviews and live footage 7.30 Job Bank. The career profiles programme looks at computer consultancy
7.40 Countryman: Harrop Magic.
CHOICE. The first of five rural profiles from the Lake District features Alan Wear, who farms 1,700 acres at Harrop, a village below the Kirkstone Pass. Told mainly in Wear's own words, delivered in voice-over rather than straight to camera, this is the story of a traditionalist who rather wishes that the tourists and the Lake District National Park would go away and leave him to the peace of the fells. He has other grouses. The hound training authorities have disqualified his favourite dog for allegedly taking a short cut during a race. With process falling the farm is a precarious living. Young people are leaving the area and the school is threatened with closure. But Wear still enjoys the married life in the company of his sheep and his dogs and this is not the distillate of a sour reactionary so much as an expression of regret that well could not have been left alone
8.10 Horizon: Playing at Noah. As the human population soars, pressure is put on the Earth's remaining wild areas and many species of animals disappear. Horizon reports on the quest of Dr Ulfreyd S. Seal, a controversial figure in the conservation world, who wants to remove animals or their embryos from the wild to populate a "biological ark" of species. The idea is to build "frozen zoo" using techniques such as in-vitro fertilisation, surrogate parents and embryo splitting. However, not everyone agrees with Seal in his view on conservationists are opposing his attempts to take half of the 50 remaining Javan rhinos on his ecological ark. (Cee-fax)
8.00 Film: Brotherhood of Man (1988) starring Jack Hirsch from Tins and Karen Carpenter. Superb and suspenseful made-for-television thriller, written by Ernest Tydman of Shell and The French Connection, about a successful businessman who is mystified by the deaths that begin to happen to him. Then he finds out that his psychopathic twin brother has been released from the institution where he was committed for murder. Directed by Jeff Bleckner. (Cee-fax)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow
11.15 The Late Show. Includes David Stafford on Merchant Ivory films 11.55 Weather
12.00 The Open University Arts Foundation Course - Language and Literature. Ends at 12.30am

ITV

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Lucky Ladders. The first of a new series of the game show hosted by Leslie Bernard 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time. The Race. Mike Scott gives viewers a chance to see their opinions on the topical discussion series
10.40 The Morning. Family magazine series
12.05 News and weather
12.30 News and weather
1.20 Home and Away. Australian soap 1.50 A Country Practice. Drama serial set in a rural Australian community health clinic
2.20 Thames Help. A preview of the week's programmes on the challenges faced by young people as they approach adulthood
2.50 Graham Kerr. Come. Galloping Gourmet Graham Kerr returns to the screen with a new cooking show
3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 Families Soap set in England and Australia
3.55 Nellie the Elephant 4.05 T-Tag and the Rings of Olympus 4.30 Count Duckula. With the voice of David Jason (r)
5.00 Home and Away (r)
5.30 News (Cee-fax) and weather
5.55 Thames Help. The first of the week's programmes on the challenges facing young people as they approach adulthood
6.00 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers hosted by Bob Honess
6.30 Thames News
7.00 Wish You Were Here. ? Still doing her surtana on good Judith Chambers visits the city of Durham while John Carter, lucky chap, is to be found further afield sampling the designs of Hawes (Cee-fax)
7.30 Coronation Street. More drama from the most famous thoroughfare in the north of England. Unknown to the staff the fate of the Rovers Return ranges in the balance. (Cee-fax)
8.00 The Upper Hand. Limp role-reversal comedy that centres on the adventures of a former footballer (Joe McGann) who works as a housekeeper for a successful businessman (Diana Weston) (Cee-fax)
8.30 World in Action: After the Storm. A profile of the Al-Sabah family which has been the ruling family of Kuwait since the 18th century and a look at their record on politics, human rights and human rights
9.00 Shrink. The soap opera antics of a psychiatrist practising at a London clinic, who sometimes seem to be in as much need of help as his patients. (Cee-fax)
10.00 News at Ten (Cee-fax) 10.35 Thames News and weather
10.40 Film: Assassin (1989). A man-made almost invincible - resurges the robot with the intention of terminating it in this pale imitation of Terminator the film that shot Arnold Schwarzenegger to fame. Dogged human determination ultimately proves more than a match for indestructible mechanical perfection, as renegade mechanoids always seem to discover. William Conrad stars as the nefarious government agent who has got what it takes to go after the menacing monster. Directed by Steven Seiden
12.00am Sportsweek Extra. Tony Fraser introduces highlights of the match between Jimmy White and Allison Fisher in the London Masters snooker tournament
1.30 Film: Dabblingly Yours (1987). Aish Delon stars in a routine thriller in which a scheming woman replaces her murdered husband with an amnesiac and proceeds to try to convince him that he is actually the dead man. She goes through all of this for the obvious reason to get her hands on his family fortune. A disappointing final film by the distinguished French director Julien Duvivier a gent of the pre-war cinema who was killed in a car crash
3.30 Cover Story. David Hasselhoff of Knight Rider and Baywatch fame is tonight's subject (r)
4.00 Mystery Theatre: The Town Where No-one Got Off. Jeff Labrecque stars in this short piece about a man who finds his life in danger when he accepts a strange challenge on a monotonous train journey (r)
4.30 American College Football. Iowa versus Washington
5.30 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 News summary
12.05 Garden Club. A repeat of the first in a new series first shown on Friday which included a visit to the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens
12.35 Business Daily. Financial and business news service presented by Susanah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. Education and entertainment for pre-school children
2.00 That Certain Age (1988 b/w). Continuing the season of Deanna Durbin films here she plays the daughter of a newspaper magnate falling for a sophisticated older journalist when he comes to stay with her parents. A charmingly lightweight family musical featuring the Oscar-nominated song "My Own" with Melvyn Douglas, Jessica Cooper, Irene Rich and Nancy Carroll. Directed by Edward Ludwig
3.50 Joshua Cooks. Australian animated short
4.00 Travelog. Repeat of last Friday's episode of the alternative travel guide. Irma Kurtz and Sir Roy Strong go tramping in the country seeking rural retreats in Herefordshire (r)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whitley hosts the words and numbers game, with Neco Sherman wedding the dictionary and Carol Vorderman flipping the numbers and marking the sums
5.00 The Late Late Show. Gay Byrne hosts the lively chat show from Dublin
6.00 Roseanne. Gritty blue-collar comedy with the rotund Roseanne Barr and John Goodman (r)
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are Brian Regan and Paul Usher from the cast of Brookside. Fashion guru Wayne Hemmings and New York rap act Gang Starr with Steve Wilman
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext)
7.50 Comment Followed by Weather
8.00 Brookside. Realistic soap set in suburban Merseyside cul-de-sac (Teletext)
8.30 My Two Dads. Run of the mill American sitcom about two single men who must share a teenage daughter. Expect all the parental angst and clichés as Nicole arranges a date with an infamous older man
9.00 Cutting Edge. A Special Hospital
CHOICE. Claude Mire has just won a Royal Television Society award for a previous Cutting Edge film about the treatment of mental patients on a Greek island. In her new documentary she returns to the subject, but comes nearer home. Ashworth is a high security mental hospital near Liverpool and at the core of the film are allegations that patients have been regularly assaulted, humiliated and sexually abused by the nursing staff. The programme looks particularly at the case of Sean Wallon, who was found dead in a seclusion "cell" the day after allegedly being beaten up by staff. The police have been called to investigate complaints but the patients say that because of their mental condition their version of events is not believed. Solicitors acting for patients have lodged 500 allegations of staff brutality over the last ten years, but none has been upheld. The hospital was invited to reply to the charges but declined. (Teletext)
A death in hospital: mental patient Sean Wallon (9.00pm)
10.00 The Menagerie. A repeat from the last series of the drama in which Cherie Lurch plays the woman in charge of a struggling English second division football team (r)
11.00 Living With the Spill. Not the oil slick in the Gulf but the Alaskan oil spill of 1969. The documentary is an up-to-date repeat of the film shown last year in the Frigate Earth series. Eleven million gallons of crude oil spilled into the clear waters of Prince William Sound when the super tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground. The film examines the devastating effects on the ecology of the area and on the lives of its inhabitants. Fishermen express anger at their threatened livelihoods, native Alaskans mourn the loss of a national treasure and townspeople, excluded from the decision-making process, voice their frustration. The once homey frontier town has changed beyond recognition as thousands of clean-up workers and tourists have descended upon it, creating a morbid boomtown out of the environmental catastrophe
12.00 Channel Four News - Midnight Special. Ends at 2.00am

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Ribble Valley poll holds key to timing of general election

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR and his senior election planners this week will be given the clearest sign yet whether they should risk an early general election. The voters of Ribble Valley in Lancashire will pass judgment on the new prime minister and his party on Thursday as he completes his first 100 days in office. The outcome of the by-election is being anxiously awaited in Downing Street and will have a significant bearing on the timing of the next election.

The Conservatives are defending a majority of 19,500 and with the failure of either Labour or the Liberal Democrats to establish themselves as the clear challenger seem to be on course for victory.

Opinion pollsters predicted privately yesterday that on

the basis of the national polls, the make-up of the predominantly rural constituency and council by-election results, the Tories would hold the seat with a greatly reduced majority, with the Liberal Democrats second and Labour third. They were speculating that the Tory majority would be cut to about 4,000.

However, Mr Major and his advisers are likely to be looking for something more substantial if they are to pursue a May or June poll.

After the publication of the latest Mori survey showing the Tory lead over Labour narrowing from five points to three, the election bandwagon, which began running at Westminster last week, is likely to slow a little before the Ribble result comes through. Mr Major knows that such a slim advantage, if repeated nationally, would give him only a 20-seat Commons majority.

After Ribble Valley, attention will switch to the Budget later this month for clues to Mr Major's plans. Anything that smacks of a giveaway will fuel election speculation.

Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, will lead a team of senior ministers back to north Lancashire this week in an attempt to shore up the Conservative vote in an area badly hit by the poll tax. Jeffrey Archer, the former Tory MP turned best-selling novelist, will also be in Clitheroe on Tuesday to raise the morale of party workers.

Yesterday, both the challengers claimed they were in second place.

The Liberal Democrats, whose candidate, Michael Carr, a 45-year-old teacher, was second at the general election, flooded the constitu-

ency with hundreds of party workers over the weekend, hoping for a repeat of last year's Eastbourne victory, when they overturned a Conservative majority of 17,000.

"We are getting a terrific response on the doorstep. The poll tax is still the issue most people want to talk about," said Mr Carr. "It has become almost a single issue by-election. There is resentment among people who have voted Tory for a lifetime."

Dr John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, contradicted the Liberal Democrat claims on a visit to the constituency yesterday. He said it was obvious that only Josie Farrington, the Labour candidate, could challenge the Tories. "We are in a strong second place, advancing steadily. Labour is winning three times the votes of the nearest other party. Ribble Valley voters know that only Labour will abolish the poll tax, not tamper with or amend it."

Dr Cunningham also promised that Labour would bring down interest rates.

This put him slightly at odds with John Smith, the shadow chancellor, who hinted that businessmen and homebuyers might have to wait for cheaper credit under a Labour government. In a BBC Radio 4 interview, Mr Smith said he had not suggested that he would move immediately to cut interest rates.

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Poll boost for Major, page 2

25 feared dead in 737 crash

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

A UNITED Airlines Boeing 737 jet with 25 people on board crashed yesterday in gusty winds while approaching Colorado Springs municipal airport in the Rocky Mountains.

The plane narrowly missed blocks of flats in a residential area before plunging into a field several miles south of the central Colorado airport's runway in clear weather shortly before 10am local time (5pm GMT). A local policeman said rescuers found no survivors at the site of the burning wreckage of Flight 583, which was carrying 20 passengers and five crew from Denver. The flight originated in Peoria, Illinois.

A federal aviation spokesman said all those on board probably died immediately as the Boeing 737 hit the ground and burst into flames. The Federal Aviation Authority has sent investigators to the scene.

● Navy jet down: An American navy T39 twin-jet aircraft which can carry seven passengers and a crew of three crashed near Chicago yesterday, but no details were immediately available on the cause or on casualties, a Defence Department spokesman said. (Reuters)

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TIMES may be tough in the fashion business but the Italians are facing the challenge on brio (Liz Smith writes). This dramatically over-scaled trenchcoat in honey-coloured silk with detachable leather collar, belted tightly over tapered trousers and jacket in beige wool, is in Gianfranco Ferré's new collection, which will be shown on Wednesday. The long

Thousands loot weapons from stricken convoy

Continued from page 1

found. "It is amazing. The Saudis have already lost more men since the ceasefire than they did in the liberation of Kuwait City. There have been seven deaths from free firing of weapons which they don't understand and don't know," said a US major, who did not wish to be identified.

"There have been seven members of the Saudi forces killed in this wholesale looting of weaponry, whereas during the assault they lost only a lieutenant-colonel and one man who had his foot blown off."

As we spoke amid the destroyed Iraqi vehicles, lying 40 abreast on the road to Basra, three loud blasts went off close by: a looter had fired his gun into the ground instead of in the air. "You see what I mean. There is no law and order here at all and these people are a liability to us as well as everyone." The US major added: "My instinct is just to waste somebody away when I see them doing something like that. I tell you, this is more dangerous than it was when we were up against the retreating Iraqis."

The deaths, since peace was declared in Kuwait City, have included one Saudi soldier included one Saudi soldier put to put an RPG rocket into its launcher the wrong way. Another soldier died to death before American doctors could treat him after he was shot by a close friend, who had picked up an Iraqi weapon and inadvertently fired straight into his groin.

Surveying the bizarre landscape was one of the first British officers on the scene, Major Mark Auchinleck. "It underlines the ugliness of war and despite the fact it was a just cause, it is quite horrifying, really quite horrifying," he said as he inspected the carnage.

Nobody who has seen the sight is likely to forget it or fail to imagine what it must have been like for the Iraqis involved. Some vehicles had attempted to shelter under motorway bridges but even they had been caught by the sophisticated missiles.

Often footsops led into the sand only to stop where the bodies had been hit. The allied burial squads, according to Major Auchinleck, were conducting brief religious ceremonies over each body until they were transferred into the mass graves sighted away from the main highway where the carnage took place.

Another of the first British officers to confront the reality

of what many observers have described as a massacre was Major Tony Crease of the Royal Scots Dragon Guards. Like the American pilots, who inflicted the damage, and like most soldiers I spoke to on the spot and further north towards the Iraqi border where pathetic soldiers, some shoeless, were still struggling home, he showed no remorse. "If we had not done it, all this stuff would have gone back into Iraq and still have been part of its war machine," he said. Major Crease added that he had come to view the carnage to report back to the British Desert Rats. "During the war, they have not ever seen anything like this. For them it has been a completely different kind of war."

The scenes along Highway 80 towards Basra were made more appalling by the large number of civilian vehicles involved in the destruction. It is believed that some of these were carrying Kuwaiti hostages, seized by the Iraqis, and others were part of the general Iraqi pillage of Kuwait City.

Victory parade to go ahead

Continued from page 1

so unnecessary in the present circumstances. But I do not see why we should repeat for the war. It is Saddam Hussein who should repent. All war is evil and wrong but resisting aggression is a necessary Christian responsibility. In this instance the aggression was so appallingly evil that we had a Christian duty to resist it."

Three months after the Falklands war service, 1,250 veterans of that conflict marched through the City of London, cheered by flag-waving crowds, to a champagne reception hosted by the lord mayor of London.

Ministers have not yet decided whether to hold a separate Gulf war thanksgiving service and victory parade or whether to combine the two in a single ceremony.

□ American servicemen will be denied the traditional victory celebration of a ticker-tape parade through the streets of Manhattan. David Dinkins, mayor of New York, has angered many citizens by deciding that sweeping up the paper afterwards would be too costly. An alternative tribute is being sought.

Sunnyside frowns as the Tambos go househunting



Tambo: not legally entitled to move in

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

ABOVE the genteel bump of tennis balls on the private courts behind the high garden walls of Sunnyside Avenue yesterday an occasional voice was raised. "Love all," said one.

But it was another game, set and match that was being played on the tennis courts in a sweat in opulent Westdene, a suburb of Benoni, east of Johannesburg.

The prospect that Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress, might

soon be a neighbour. The ANC has confirmed that Mr Tambo and his wife, Adelaide, have looked at properties in Westdene. They have shown particular interest in No 10 Sunnyside Avenue. It overlooks a bird sanctuary and there is a tennis court in the garden. The asking price is £170,000 but nothing yet has been finalised, says Mr McQueen, the owner, says.

Even if it was, the Tambos would not legally be entitled to move in while the Group Areas Act remains on the

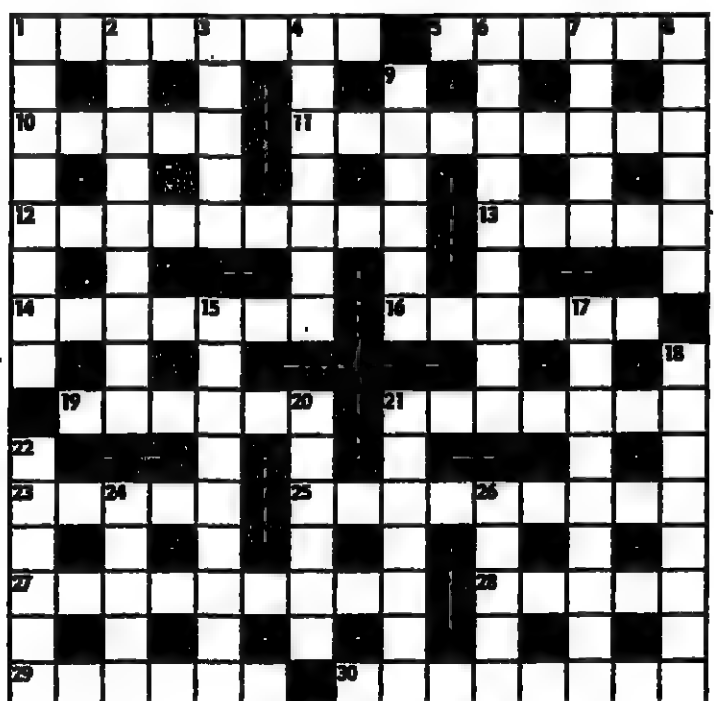
statute book. The legislation is expected to be part of apartheid history within months.

Ricky Sprout, who has lived in the area for two years, is opposed to having the Tambos as near neighbours and is considering selling up and returning to the sub-tropical Eastern Transvaal Lowveld. "There you are the *baas* [boss]," she said. "Look at Soweto. If Tambo wants to come and live here, his kind will be moving in all over the place. If you give them a finger they will take a

bloody arm." Ken Macpherson, another neighbour, said: "I certainly won't be going round with a welcoming pot of tea and cake."

Numerous black professionals have been living in upmarket suburbs of Johannesburg in defiance of the act without causing any trouble. □ Civil rights lawyers in South Africa mounted a last-minute campaign to save Paul Beuzendebout from being sent to the gallows at dawn tomorrow. He stabbed a woman and a child to death two years ago.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,544



ACROSS

- 1 Mean to embrace the boy when cleaner (8).
- 5 Where porridge is served in a jug? (6).
- 10 Thomas turned round to get a case (5).
- 11 Painter studies catalogue (9).
- 12 Abandon the offensive and use soft words (9).
- 13 A sheepish creature in front of pupils in town (5).
- 14 Place where cats lie sprawling (7).
- 16 The heartless acquiring the right to impose some restriction (6).
- 19 P for policeman? (6).
- 21 Dead set on reform, but calmed down (7).
- 23 An American seaman bearing royal letters (5).
- 25 Coming by water shows enterprise (9).

DOWN

- 1 Business award in force (8).
- 2 Surprisingly inapt concerning preparation of hors d'oeuvres (9).
- 3 Release game before early September (5).
- 4 Waste, or refuse (7).
- 6 Fell back to be given medical attention again (9).
- 7 A brother in Kent put to the sword (5).
- 8 Such decorative work can make one ill (6).
- 9 Crawler giving trendy party (6).
- 15 Out of order, and so tense (9).
- 17 Attendants, writing a note, urge reform (9).
- 18 A woman in depression is dinging (8).
- 20 Gathered in study to hold exercises (6).
- 21 Not many part with a pound (7).
- 22 Root cause of motor deterioration (6).
- 24 Critical about hard situation in life (5).
- 26 Stuff that helps brawny long-distance runners (5).

THE PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,543 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

Concise crossword, page 13

By Philip Howard HISTORICALS

TITTYRUS

- a. An Indian prince
- b. Early leper loots
- c. A French bread tax

OROSIUS

- a. A Roman general
- b. A Spanish historian
- c. A codifier of laws

THE TERRIBLE CORNET

- a. Early Italian ice cream
- b. Roland's trumpet
- c. Pitt the Elder

HANSE

- a. A trading community
- b. Greta's brother
- c. The Bavarian legislature

Answers on page 16, column 1

RAILWAYS

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London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731

M-way/roads M4-M1 732

M-way/roads M1-Curford 733

M-way/roads Dartford T-M23 734

M-way/roads M23-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Angles 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Eastern England will start dry with some rain likely by late afternoon. Parts of western England and Wales will soon become wet and windy with gales in places. Northern Ireland will be wet and windy, and western Scotland will have heavy rain and strong winds after a dry start. Eastern Scotland will be dry and bright this morning, becoming cloudy with rain later. Outlook: mild with some rain in most places.

WEATHER

MONDAY: (b) thunder; (d) drizzle; (f) fog; (s) sun; (c) clear; (w) wind; (h) hail; (o) overcast; (m) mist

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Alto

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 19-25
● EDUCATION 26,27
● SPORT 29-34

BUSINESS

MONDAY MARCH 4 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

Presence of unions 'affects investing'

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

CORPORATE investment is significantly less in companies that recognise unions for collective bargaining, a new study will show this week.

Government ministers are likely to use the research as evidence that the presence of unions in companies worsens their overall economic performance.

A study, carried out at the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Oxford University and to be published this week, is the first work that identifies closely the presence of unions in companies with lower levels of investment by those companies.

Ministers are becoming increasingly concerned that levels of investment are falling in manufacturing industry as the recession bites harder, and industrial leaders expect some investment assistance will be provided by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, when he delivers his Budget in a fortnight's time.

Economists have recently produced a considerable amount of work on the impact of unions, and though the issue is hotly debated, the most authoritative work suggests job growth and profits are lower in unionised workplaces. However, so far there has been little work on investment.

But in a study to be published this week in the *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, Kevin Denny, from the IFS, and Stephen Nickell, from Oxford's Institute of Economics and Statistics, use workplace and census data to show that "the impact of union recognition is quite strongly negative, indicating the presence of manual unions tends to reduce investment."

The study says that a company which recognises a union and has an average level of union density - the proportion of its employees who are members of a union - "has an investment rate about 23 per cent lower than an equivalent firm with no recognised union."

The findings follow an academic study last week that showed that, throughout the Eighties, pay increases won by non-union employees were consistently higher than those obtained by unionised workers.

The investment study says that once wages and productivity have been taken into account, then in the competitive sector, unionised companies have an investment rate 13 per cent less than non-union firms.

In non-competitive areas, either where the company dominates the market, or has only five or fewer competitors, then after taking account of wages and productivity, the unionised investment rate is about 4 per cent lower than the non-union rate.

The authors point out, though, that the negative effect of unions on company investment appears now to be falling, largely because of the progressive weakening of unions as economic forces.

A separate study in the *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, carried out at Surrey University will show that, in every year in the past decade, almost one-third of all pay bargaining groups used their annual pay settlements to change their working arrangements with the aim of increasing their productivity.

Confederation of British Industry leaders have been insisting that increased pay must be accompanied by improved performance, and the study uses confederation data to demonstrate an "exceptional" rate of productivity growth in the Eighties.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND
US dollar
1.9000 (-0.0480)
W German mark
2.9152 (-0.0105)
Exchange index
93.7 (-0.7)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1918.2 (+71.5)
FT-SE 100
2386.9 (+72.6)
New York Dow Jones
2909.90 (+20.54)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
25881.57 (-21.24)

Citicorp wins £1m fight over swap contracts

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CITICORP, America's largest bank, has won an 18-month battle against a Welsh local authority over interest-rate swap payments.

The settlement will encourage other banks to sue more councils to recover some of the £600 million they claim to have lost on the swaps.

The out-of-court settlement with Ogwr Borough Council in Mid-Glamorgan, which will allow Citicorp to reclaim more than £1 million, is the first success by a bank against local

authorities in the battle over swap contracts.

Ogwr is repaying Citicorp investment Bank more than £1 million earned on five swap contracts it wrote with the bank in 1987.

The restitution, which includes interest on the original payments, comes after a House of Lords ruling in January that all swap contracts between banks and councils were unlawful.

Citicorp's case against Ogwr was due to be heard in the High Court in London last Tuesday, but the council gave

in to the bank's demands at the last minute.

Chris Ballentine, a director of Citicorp's financial investment group, said: "The council perceived they were not going to win and decided to save the legal costs."

Despite the outcome, Citicorp is still thought to have lost almost £1 million on its contracts with Ogwr, which the council would have had to pay if the Lords had upheld the contracts.

The bank started the action against Ogwr in August 1989 when it refused to pay on its swaps.

Company tax cut likely, says bank

By GRAHAM SEARJANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE government is likely to increase the tax burden on the higher paid to fund cuts for companies, Lloyds Bank predicts today.

Christopher Johnson, the chief economic adviser to Lloyds Bank, says that electoral considerations rule out a harsh Budget to speed interest rate cuts.

The likelihood that the public sector will run a £7 billion deficit in 1991-2 rules out the £1 billion tax cuts assumed in the Budget documents a year ago.

If Norman Lamont, the chancellor, wishes to make a mark in what might be his only Budget, says Mr Johnson, he is likely to:

- Restrict income tax relief, particularly on mortgage interest and pension contributions, to the standard 25 per cent rate, saving £1.1 billion;
- Freeze the income threshold at which the higher 40 per cent tax rate is charged instead of indexing it;
- Impose national insurance contributions on income in kind, such as company cars;
- Raise the excise duty on cars with big engines by more than any general increase in the duty.

The total proceeds of £2.5 billion could be used to ease the tax burden on companies, which has been intensified by inflation. This relief would probably come in the form of restoring relief on stock profits since the tax cost would automatically fall as inflation subsides. The "anomalous" 37.5 per cent corporation tax

rate on profits of smaller companies between £200,000 and £1 million could also go in a rationalisation of tax rates, Mr Johnson writes in the *Lloyds Bank Economic Bulletin*.

Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant, which has set provisional odds on possible Budget changes, disagrees with Lloyds, rating the reintroduction of stock relief at 50:1, abolition of higher rate mortgage relief at 4:1 against and changes in the basis of taxing company cars at 5:1.

Mr Johnson also predicts that taxes and government spending will need to be altered more often, because European exchange-rate mechanism membership requires interest rate and fiscal policy to be more closely meshed.

This could lead to a return of the mini-budgets seen in the Seventies but scorned since 1979.



Johnson: not a harsh Budget

Decision on firms for Kuwait expected today

By PHILIP PANGALOS

BRITISH construction companies and the government expect to have details today of which firms have been awarded the first contracts for the rebuilding of Kuwait after the Gulf war.

The choices were made over the weekend by the US Army's Corps of Engineers, which has to select companies to carry out the first reconstruction work.

The first work, comprising contracts worth \$46.3 million, includes building work on

roads, sanitation and water treatment systems and electrical power supplies.

British firms involved include Wimpey, Higgs & Hill, Marconi and Bewater.

The more lucrative contracts long-term will be discussed later. Separate negotiations are being held by the Kuwaiti government over the long-term rebuilding, involving spending estimated at between \$100 million and \$500 million over the next decade.

Firms fear TV standard ruling

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission is expected to rule this month on the future of High Definition Television (HDTV) and it might put a multi-billion pound investment at risk.

The companies which would lose most if the Commission fails to adopt a common European television standard are Philips, the Dutch electronics company, and Thomson Consumer Electronics, a subsidiary of Thomson-CSF, the state-owned French electronics group. The imposition of a common standard is regarded within the electronics industry as crucial if European technology is to stand any chance on world markets, but the Commission, like European governments, satellite operators and broadcasting companies, is split over the issue.

The Commission will consider whether to harden or to abandon a previous directive, which runs out at the end of this year. Under this directive, satellite operators are obliged to use the D2Mac television standard. The D2Mac suffered a blow when the operators of the Astra satellite exploited a legal loophole,

which allowed them to use the current PAL standard.

There are signs that the Commission might opt for a compromise, by which D2Mac would become a compulsory system in future, but sources at Philips suggest this would open the way to a plethora of differing standards that would be difficult to harmonise. The commissioners involved in the debate are also split. Filippo Pandolfi, the science commissioner, favours a hardening of the rules, while others, including Martin Bangemann, the internal market commissioner, want satellite operators to be allowed to choose their own system.

Philips, the company most affected by the decision, is going through the deepest crisis in its 99 years, having reported a £1.3 billion loss and embarking on a cost-cutting exercise that involves 50,000 job losses.

Some Philips managers, still haunted by memories of Video 2000, the company's ill-fated video standard, have admitted privately that the consequences of Europe abandoning the D2Mac

standard would be grave for the companies involved.

Officially, Philips remains committed to D2Mac and the company is lobbying for a toughening and extension of the current rules. Internally, it is acknowledged, however, that a more flexible approach is needed. While this would not lead to an automatic abandonment of D2Mac, it would involve the adoption of a more hedged position in respect of other technologies.

HDTV technology is most advanced in Japan, where HDTV sets already operate, but Europe is reluctant to adopt the Japanese system for industrial reasons and apparent incompatibilities. There is excitement in America, about digital television, a post-HDTV system, which would offer quality superior to anything proposed so far. Thomson will market television sets this year that offer cinema-like panoramic viewing based on the PAL standard.

Germany, previously a supporter of France's hardline position in favour of D2Mac, has also changed its position in favour of developing PAL.



Ready to move: Clark, who delayed decisions on which tank to buy until the war was over

Vickers confident of tank order after Gulf

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government believes Britain is more likely to win the order for the new generation of battle tanks after the Challenger's performance in the Gulf war.

Ministers are expected to make early moves to convene the inter-departmental committee responsible for recommending which tank to buy.

The principal vehicles competing for the £130m order are the Challenger II, which is made by Vickers, the British engineering company, the American Abrams, made by General Dynamics, and a version of the German Leopard 2, produced by Krauss Maffei.

A decision on which tank to buy is overdue, and Alan Clark, minister for defence procurement, announced during the Gulf war that the government would not be making any commitments until the war was over.

Mr Clark said yesterday that with the end of the war just a few days old, the government had not yet had time to turn its thoughts fully to the new tank.

But he confirmed that the issue was being "actively considered" by ministers. Commenting on the Challenger's performance in the Gulf war, he said: "Everybody is pleased."

Strong doubts were voiced inside and outside government that the Challenger would be able to withstand the rigours of battle. The war was seen as a full-scale field test of the tank's performance and an indicator of what a Vickers replacement would be like.

But although the German tank was not in the field, and so could not be measured in

the Gulf, and Vickers is claiming that on the day the ground war started, 98 per cent of the 190-plus Challengers were battle-ready - well ahead of the target.

In particular, Vickers believes that the 200-mile drive carried out by British tanks through Iraq towards Basra is an important indicator of the reliability of the tank, since 95 per cent of the vehicles completed the run.

Now that the war is over, the company is likely to begin pressing the MoD again for a decision on the tank - even a commitment for perhaps an initially smaller number of tanks than it hopes the final order will comprise.

Midland may cut its final dividend

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MIDLAND Bank's main board meets today to decide whether to approve a cut in the bank's final dividend. If it does, Midland will become the first big four British bank to cut its dividend since the second world war.

The board, chaired by Sir Kit McMahon, is thought to be faced with a recommendation from the bank's executive committee to reduce the final payout, 10.7p last year, by between 4p and 6p.

Midland reports its results for 1990 tomorrow. These are expected to show a loss of about £50 million due to soaring bad debt provisions in the bank's core retail and corporate lending businesses. The dividend cut is thought necessary to preserve the bank's reserves, and keep its tax charge low.

The executive committee has agonised for weeks over the cut. Although the financial reasons are undeniable, some members are worried that it could cause a loss of confidence in the bank among shareholders and depositors.

● Problem loans for British clearing banks will continue to grow this year, according to Standard & Poor's, the American credit rating agency that recently downgraded Barclays and NatWest and is reviewing Midland (Philip Robinson writes from New York).

Mr Barry Hancock, head of S&P's international banking analysts in London, says problem loans are likely to rise this year and the banks are unlikely to be quick to bring down mortgage rates, despite the declines in base rates, because they need to increase profit margins.

After a New York presentation to American corporate bond investors, he said: "While the British banks are still among the strongest in the world, we will see no drop in provision levels (against bad loans) this year."

"As the recession bites, there is obviously going to be more pain. And even if interest rates came down by several percentage points tomorrow it would be some time before economic activity picked up," he added.

Key factors in the downgrading of both Barclays and NatWest were their huge exposure to investment banking and stockbroking and to the troubled American banking and property market.

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Managers face French with tears says BIM

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

MANAGERS need to improve their linguistic ability markedly, the British Institute of Management says today on the basis of a survey showing that fewer than half of them can understand a simple business letter in French.

British managers have an "unshakeable belief" that English is the business language of the world and therefore others are unnecessary, the institute says. But it points out that more than half of Europe is unable to speak English.

The institute sent business letters in French, German, Spanish and Italian to 3,000 managers. Of those responding to the survey, 44 per cent understood the French version, 14 per cent the German, 5 per cent the Spanish and 5 per cent the Italian.

The results of the survey showed an even worse linguistic ability when managers were asked whether they would be able to reply to the letters in the same language.

Only 23 per cent believed they could reply in French, while 9 per cent thought they would be able to write back in German, and 2 per cent in Italian and Spanish.

Sir Derek Hornby, the institute's chairman, said that, with 1992 and the creation of a full single market just round the corner, managers and their companies had to improve their linguistic ability, and that of their staff. Even primarily organisations based in Britain would find themselves dealing with European suppliers and customers.

Sir Derek, also chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, said: "More than half of Britain's managers liaise with other European countries and nearly 40 per cent travel on business every year, yet their lack of foreign languages is frustrating."

Business Europe - Language and the British Manager, by Gillian Pearce, BIM, Management House, Cottingham Road, Corby, Northants NN17 1TT. £10

US airline needs sale to pay debts



Awaiting clearance for sale: one of the last Pan Am jumbos to taxi at Heathrow

Talks on Pan Am may resume day before loan is due

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

TALKS crucial to the survival of Pan Am, once the leading transatlantic airline, are expected to resume on Thursday, 24 hours before a multi-million dollar loan is due for repayment.

The repayment to Bankers Trust and United Airlines of between \$75 million and \$150 million is due on Friday. Pan Am was expected to pay off the loan from the \$290 million it should get for the sale of its London routes to United Airlines. Analysts say Pan Am has no cash and no assets to sell, apart from the London routes.

The route sale has been approved by American aviation regulators, but has still to find favour in Britain. Talks between the two countries broke up without agreement on Friday.

The negotiations also covered a range of new practices that would allow British Airways greater access to the

American market. Talks have ended in failure twice in two months. Those involved, however, say some progress has been made and talks between delegates of both countries are expected to reconvene on Thursday.

Trans World Airlines' \$445 million sale of London routes to American Airlines is also yet to be approved. The planned sales of Pan Am and TWA routes effectively replace two of America's weakest carriers with two of that nation's most financially sound airlines. British representatives have expressed concern that the American move would represent a sharp increase in transatlantic competition for BA.

America is thought to have proposed a temporary limit on the number of United and American transatlantic flights.

BA is also expected to be offered access to Dallas-Fort Worth, where air traffic is

forecast to rise sharply over the next ten years to create the second largest airport in America by the end of the decade. One airline thought the two sides had reached agreement by Friday afternoon. TWA ran New York to London discount fare advertisements on the radio yesterday, promising the tickets would be honoured by American Airlines if American was the new owner of the London route at the time of travel.

For some Pan Am creditors, however, any agreement is unlikely to mean repayment of debt.

The airline will ask the bankruptcy court on Thursday to release it from obligations to pay \$33 million to companies that have leased Pan Am 34 of its 186 planes. However, the American law states that an airline has to pay on leased planes within two months of a bankruptcy filing or risk losing them.

Funding falls for foreign takeovers

By PHILIP PANGALOS

BRITISH companies' international ambitions have been curbed by the recession, with cash for foreign takeovers more than halved, reports KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock's Deal Watch survey, published today.

The survey says overall spending on foreign takeovers dropped from £23.8 billion in 1988 to £10.5 billion last year. At the same time, a survey from the Institute of Directors reports that confidence among business leaders plunged in the first two months of this year. Almost three out of four directors were less optimistic about the economy, compared with 50 per cent in December. Profits and business volume dropped.

The KPMG survey says that in 1988, British companies spent £1 on acquiring foreign operations for every £3 invested in new plant and equipment in Britain. In 1990, expenditure on foreign buys tumbled to £1 for every £8 invested at home.

Richard Agutter, head of KPMG's international mergers and acquisitions network, said: "The UK, in common with some of the most significant cross-border buyers in 1988, is experiencing a recession driven decline in cross-border takeovers." He said combined foreign buys by Australia, Canada and Britain fell "enormously", while domestic investment rose.

Capital investment at home grew from £88.6 billion to £102.2 billion as firms concentrated depleted funds on buying domestic assets to generate revenue.

The survey also shows, contrary to British trends, cross-border acquisitions by the leading continental European countries have risen significantly from a small base over the last two years.

At the worst of the recession is yet to come in the heating industry. Its latest state of trade enquiry showed that companies expected to be hit by the worst of the downturn in the middle of the year.

Retailers hurt by high rents as recession bites

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

HIGH rents extracted by landlords at the height of the Eighties economic boom are eating into profits of retailers already hit by recession.

The British Retailers' Association, which represents two thirds of retailers, is concerned that as profits dwindle in the recession, rents are accounting for a greater portion of turnover.

Mark Bradshaw, a spokesman for the association, cites one broadly based retail group that saw its rental costs rise from 9 per cent of sales in 1986 to 15 per cent by last year. As a result of such evidence, the association is to conduct a survey of rental costs among its members.

The issue arises from the high rents that fast-growing retailers such as Sack Shop were able to pay in the mid-Eighties. Such rents were used as the basis for renegotiating the leases of established retailers as they came up for renewal. As the recession set in, retailers came under financial pressure but were locked into high rents. Some shops in



Ackroyd: new basis sought

Knightsbridge, central London, and Brent Cross, north London, are paying as much as £300 a sq ft.

Most leases on retail premises come up for renewal every five years and are subject to "upwards only" rent reviews. There is no scope within the lease to drop rents although private deals may be done.

Keith Ackroyd, managing director of Boots' retail division and chairman of the retailers' association, says the

rent problem is not just recession-led. Projections show that rents as a portion of turnover will rise over the next few years, although in real terms rents peaked in 1989.

Mr Ackroyd admits that the problem was created by the retailers, but questions the fairness of a prudent retailer having his rent costs determined by a fast-growing group prepared to pay over the odds for a shop and as a consequence being forced to pay higher rents to stay put.

He would like to see landlords and retailers agree a new basis for determining rents. Rents based on a proportion of turnover is one possibility, a system used in America and mainland Europe, although he believes such a formula would not resolve all issues. He said: "Ability to pay is not taken into account. If landlords were prepared to take some of the risk, retailers would be prepared to share the rewards."

Clive Lewis, of Clive Lewis and partners, which specialises in marketing retail properties, says that while the situation was created by retailers, landlords in the United Kingdom have much more security than those overseas.

He said: "If a landlord signs a secure tenant on a 25-year lease with upward-only rent reviews where the tenant is responsible for the shopping and the upkeep of the property, all he has to do is sit back. Property developers can market these low risk schemes to institutional investors more easily than schemes in which they share some of the risks."

He added, however, that market forces are beginning to work in the retailers' favour, with some retailers signing shorter leases, longer rent-free periods and a capital sum towards the shopping. Some landlords, such as Capital & Counties, are offering turnover-related rents at shopping centres, while retailers are beginning to get tough. Boots renegotiated its rent at Brent Cross Shopping Centre with Hammonds, the "property group, down from £1.97 million to £420,000.

Economist urges tax spending breakdown

By GRAHAM SEARLENT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE government should give taxpayers an annual breakdown of how national taxes are spent. This would complement the analysis of income and spending that local authorities have to send to residents, a study of the use of taxes suggests.

In an enquiry paper for the Institute of Economic Affairs, Gabriel Stein, the Swedish economist, argues that everyone who pays national insurance contributions should likewise receive an annual statement showing contributions paid on their behalf and the benefits to which they are therefore entitled.

This would be equivalent to the annual information pro-

vided on private sector personal pensions. Mr Stein finds that several taxes, such as National Health or National Insurance contributions and local rates or community charges, appear to be levied to finance particular spending but actually do not. As a result, taxpayers are misled and cannot make rational voting choices.

Health contributions, Mr Stein calculates, financed only 17 per cent of total spending on the National Health Service in 1989-90. Even before business rates were made national and domestic rates replaced by community charge, rates financed only 37 per cent of local authority spending.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Offshore trade threatened

LONG before 1992 was thought up by the politicians, cross-border buying and selling of capital, in the guise of the Euromarkets, served as a pan-European market of the sort that could only be dreamed of in Brussels.

How ironic then, that as the deadline for the single European market approaches, the Euromarkets should be threatened by a Community directive aimed at liberalising the international capital markets in Europe.

The Investment Services Directive is intended to create a "single passport" for securities firms. This would allow securities houses licensed by their domestic regulators to conduct business in any other member state.

But, according to industry

representatives, an amendment proposed by France, and supported by at least four other member countries, could threaten the primary position of the European offshore capital markets.

The amendment proposes giving member states the option to require trading of securities listed in that country to take place on the domestic market. If exercised, it is argued, the option would bring to an end the fluid Euromarkets of today and return European capital markets to their state of about 20 years ago.

There is a let out clause. One passage in the amendment proposes that "off market" trading could take place at the discretion of the investor. This suggestion is

described as "farfetched" by John Langton, the chief executive of the Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD). "If you want to buy a Eurobond you should be fully free to go where the price is cheapest," he says.

Opposition to the amendment is led by Germany and Britain, the two biggest players in the European capital markets. Significantly, the proposal is also opposed by the Commission itself.

Many opponents believe the French proposal is an attempt to restore to Paris the trading in French equities lost to the London based Euronext system. Seag, which would not count as a recognised market, accounts for about a quarter of this business, undermining Paris's credibility as a rival to London as a financial centre.

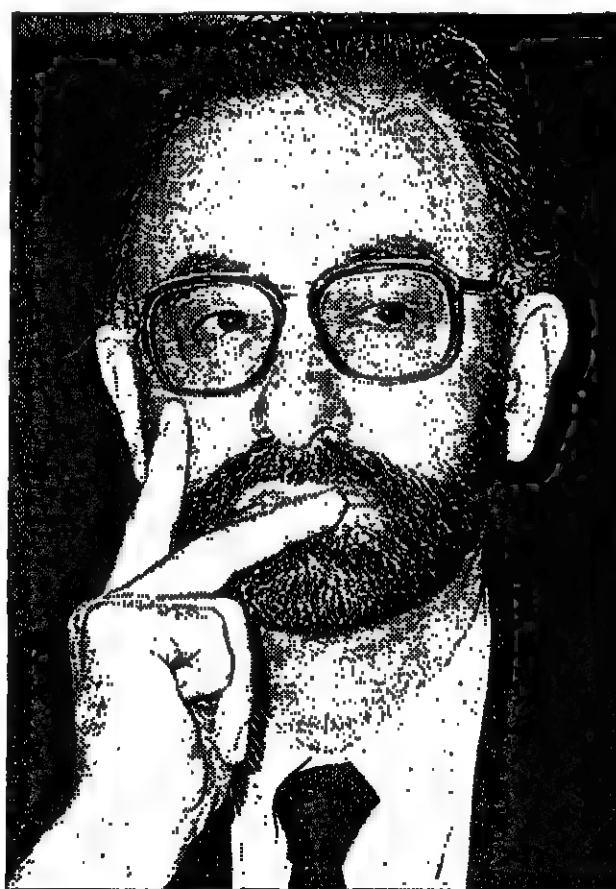
The AIBD, the trade body representing Eurobond traders and the closest thing the market has to a regulator, predicts a gloomy picture for the European capital markets if the amendment goes ahead. "It would destroy the concept of the liberalised market," Mr Langton fears.

A market in which mark bonds could only be bought in Frankfurt and nobody knew where to buy eu bonds is unthinkable.

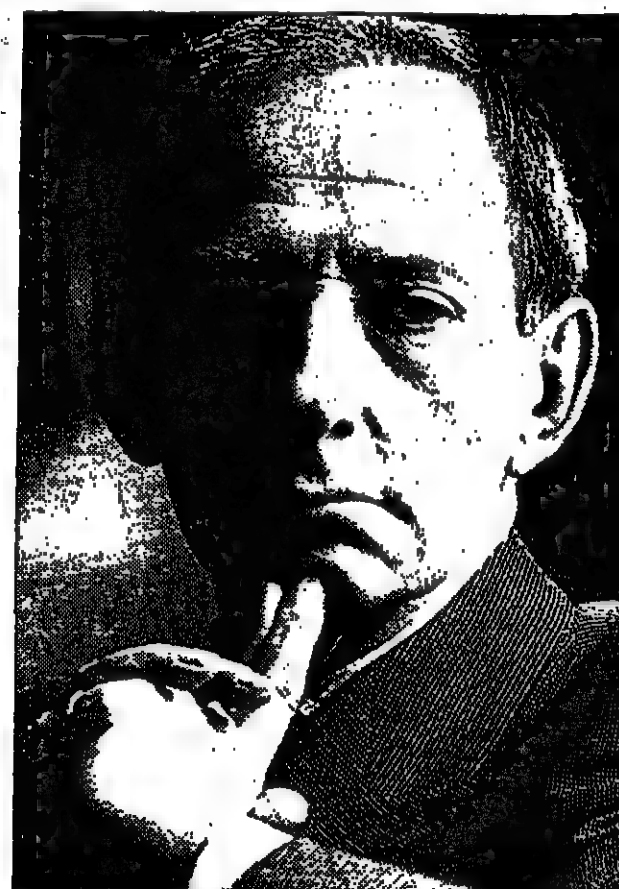
JONATHAN PRYNN

REPORTING THIS WEEK

City bets on a Ladbroke winner despite problems of second half



Day: Cadbury is expected to reach £275 million



Stein: Ladbroke profit forecast at £308 million

WEDNESDAY

Cadbury Schweppes, the soft drinks and confectionery company chaired by Sir Graham Day, is expected to show pre-tax profits of £275 million (£244.3 million), according to Smith New Court.

Market forecasts range from £275 million to £285 million. The company should benefit from a strong performance by its British confectionery and drink operations, underlining the resilience of food manufacturers in a recession.

GKN, the motor components and industrial services group, will suffer as a result of weak car and truck markets. Analysts believe that the full-year profits will decline from £214.8 million to between £170 million and £180 million.

SmithKline Beecham, the Anglo-American pharmaceuticals group, will report on its first full year as a new company. BZW forecasts pre-tax profits of £360 million (£723.7 million). Earnings per share are expected to climb to 41p (36.5p).

Market forecasts range from £340 million to £365 million. Final pre-tax profits from

BICC, the cables and construction group, are predicted to fall from £201 million to £185 million, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £170 million to £190 million.

Interim: Close Brothers Group, Gellford, Haggas (John), Sinclair (William) Holdings. Final: BICC, Cadbury Schweppes, CHM, Fanny Group, GKN, Heywood Williams Group, Inspec, Portland Group, Pickwick Group, SmithKline Beecham, Stat-Plus Group, Trade Innovations Group.

Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (December), advance energy statistics (January), details of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

THURSDAY

Pete Deighton at County NatWest expects Rolls-Royce, the aero engines group, to show final pre-tax profits of £255 million (£233.9 million). Most analysts' forecasts are between £255 million and £260 million.

However, Mr Deighton says the company may be affected by exceptional items - which could be in the region of £20 million - relating to a possible accounting adjustment.

The Gulf conflict, which has had a big impact on the fourth quarter, has added to the

problems caused by the recession and the subsequent downturn in the aerospace industry and has led to airlines and governments spending less on higher margin civil engine spares.

TI Group, the specialist engineering group, is expected to report a respectable set of figures. UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £124 million, against £111.5 million last time. Market forecasts range from £120 million to £130 million.

Christine Baker, at Nomura Research Institute, believes that historic net income at Ultramar, the diversified oil and gas group, will rise to £114 million (£102.2 million) for the full year. Market forecasts range from £105 million to £117 million.

Net income is expected to advance to £110 million (£86.9 million) on a replacement cost basis. A dividend of 10.5p (9p) is forecast.

WPP Group, Martin Sorrell's highly geared marketing services group, is expected to announce final pre-tax profits of £84.7 million (£75 million), according to Lorna Tibbitt at SG Warburg Securities. Market forecasts range from £80 million to £90 million.

However, the market will be more interested in an indication of what this year's budgets look like. Conditions are still tough and many fear they are likely to get tougher.

WPP's decision not to pay an interim dividend confirmed the market's fears that the group's cash flow has worsened significantly. No final dividend is expected. Further news is awaited on the refinancing.

Interim: Bailey (Ben) Construction, Brerley Investments, Garton, Kierwatt Benson International Income Bond Fund, Mowson (M.J.) Group, Pict Petroleum, Principal Hotels, Renshaw.

Final: Automated Security (Holdings), Baynes (Charles), Cassell, Ladbroke Group, More O'Ferrall, MTL Instruments Group, MTI, Murray International Trust, Nichols (J.N.) (Vimco), Parnos, Radius, Rolls-Royce, Sanvick, AD, TI Group, Ultramar, United Financials Africa, Vicalco, WPP Group.

Economic statistics: Housing starts and completions (January), house renovations (fourth quarter).

FRIDAY

Interim: None announced. Final: Aitch Holdings, Brims (T.F.H.) (Holdings), Doolley, Perry Group.

Economic statistics: Construction output (fourth quarter).

PHILIP PANGALOS

RENTALS IN THE TIMES

Looking to rent or want to rent your property? See Wednesday Rentals column every week.

Tel: 071 481 1986 (Trade)
071 481 4000 (Private)



NatWest announces that with effect from Monday 11th March 1991 its Gold Plus overdraft rates will be amended as follows: borrowing up to and including £10,000 reduced from 16.5% to 16% p.a. Unauthorised borrowing remains unchanged at 22.5% p.a.

41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

The One Hundred and Sixty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held in the Head Office, 3 George Street, Edinburgh, on Tuesday 26 March 1991 at 2.30pm.

By Order of the Board of Directors
A S BELL
Managing Director

Edinburgh, 1 March 1991

Standard Life

هك نام النحل

Risk of pouring water on troubled oil

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Although economics has long been described as "the dismal science", economists have for once been outdone by diplomats and political commentators in their ability to turn a victory into defeat. While economists are hailing the end of the Gulf war as an unmitigated blessing, Middle East experts continue to warn of a pyrrhic victory. This latest Arab humiliation, they tell us, will inspire a new generation of nationalists and Islamic fundamentalists. In the long run, they will do more harm to Western interests than Saddam's ragged army, the Arabists say.

If this is true, then the implication for economic policy are momentous. The industrialised world should do its utmost to disengage economically, as well as militarily, from the Gulf region. Saudi Arabia, which has more power than ever to control Opec, should be pressured to let oil fall to \$15 or below. Western governments should then load heavy additional taxes onto oil consumption, while lifting the fiscal burden on domestic energy producers in order to promote domestic alternatives to Middle

Eastern oil. By the time resurgent Arab nationalism became a serious threat again to oil supplies, the balance of power in the energy market would have tilted even further against the Gulf producers. Their need for our money would be much greater than our dependence on their oil.

This seems to be the strategic thinking behind most long-range energy policy in the industrialised world. During the last two months, the European Commission and the Bush administration have announced initiatives aimed at increasing energy taxes and reducing oil dependence in the long term. Although these measures received little attention in the heat of battle, they could ultimately have more impact on the Middle East's future than the overthrow or survival of Saddam Hussein. A serious commitment by the West to disengage itself economically from the Gulf would mean ruin for the entire Middle East, eventually impoverishing

even the oil rich desert Sheikdom and destroying what remains of their political stability. A self-imposed policy of limiting our access to the world's lowest-cost energy production would also impose huge costs on consumers and industries in our own countries.

Before taking this course, Western governments should think carefully about whether the fears of future instability in the Gulf are justified. The Middle Eastern experts' predictions on this score should not be taken for granted, given their lamentable performance since August 2. Having grossly overestimated the military threat posed by Iraq's "mighty war machine", they may now be equally misleading when

they predict defiance by Arabs everywhere after their "humiliation", and when they argue that tiny oil states are inherently unable to defend themselves against regional powers such as Iran or a resurgent Iraq.

On the second point, it is rarely mentioned that Saudi Arabia's 12 million population, with the 4 million who live in the other Gulf states, is almost equal to Iraq's 17 million. The people of the oil-rich states should have no trouble seeing off future military threats from Iraq, now that they recognise that spending billions on foreign military gadgets is no substitute for having their own men under arms. A broader alliance would be more than a match for the only plausible long-term

threat which might exist in the region, Iran.

But this still leaves the root cause of the Arab world's anti-Western feelings: the Palestinian problem. If expert opinion is believed, the West now faces a clear choice. Either it must demonstrate its good faith to the Arabs by putting pressure on Israel to provide a Palestinian homeland; or it must resign itself to a permanent state of undeclared war with the Islamic world. Assuming, reasonably, that Israel is now less likely than ever to be pushed into giving up territories which it considers strategic, the conclusion of endless turmoil seems to follow — and economic disengagement from the Gulf seems justified. There is a more hopeful possibility. The Arab world might react to Iraq's defeat in a spirit of self-interest, instead of self-sacrifice.

Pan-Arabism, terrorism, and the "oil weapon" have all been tried and failed. Suppose the Pal-

estinians finally realise that they have no hope of beating Israel and the West. As a result, the Palestinian problem might be addressed on the only terms which make it capable of resolution. These are the terms dictated first and foremost by the security interests of Israel, interests which America will now back more forcefully than ever.

Opponents of the Gulf war claim it demonstrated a double standard towards Israel and Iraq. This is not strictly true, since Israel's occupation of the West Bank resulted from defensive wars, unlike Iraq's unprovoked invasion of Kuwait. But America's stand did prove a point which should always have been obvious — the Middle East's future will be determined by national interests and *realpolitik*, not sentimentality and rhetoric. If the Palestinians accepted this, as the Egyptians did after their 1973 defeat, the Middle East could rapidly become a prosperous and even a safe region. The West would be foolish to undermine the economic basis for such hopes now, by effectively declaring a trade war against Gulf oil.

Keeping parliament sovereign in EMU



Pulling purse strings: John Major and Helmut Kohl

CAN national parliaments retain worthwhile economic sovereignty in an economic and monetary union (EMU)? This question is at the heart of Britain's opposition to EMU and last week's dispute over a new economic treaty between Helmut Kohl and Jacques Delors. The issue is only relevant to governments that want to borrow excessively. Germany wants to deal with such governments through rules that would restrict the quantity and purpose of borrowing by each European country; a clear erosion of parliamentary sovereignty. But are such rules really necessary in a monetary union? Or can the financial markets impose sufficient budgetary discipline without help from Brussels or Bonn?

Although it is not yet fully realised, a market mechanism for preserving national fiscal sovereignty has been agreed. The European governments have agreed unanimously that any new monetary treaty should include a clause against financial bailouts of individual member countries that experience financial difficulties.

This no-bailout rule was designed to impose fiscal rectitude, but it could also preserve fiscal sovereignty after monetary union was complete.

The core of national budgetary sovereignty is the freedom to spend and tax as a country sees fit. Spending must equal taxation plus borrowing plus money printing, but an explicit purpose of the proposed EMU treaty is to take the power to print money away from individual governments. This critical step would put national treasuries into the same situation as private borrowers, who do not have the power to print money. Governments would have to match expenditure to income unless savers were willing to lend them their savings.

In the new world of the single currency, savers would

no longer suffer surreptitious defaults through inflation. Instead, they would face the risk that governments might fail to repay their borrowings on time.

In other monetary unions, such as Australia and Canada, no-bailout rules have not exerted discipline on state governments because default by any member of the club would damage the whole club's vital access to international financial markets. As a result, the club as a whole had a specific interest in assisting any member experiencing difficulties. A strict rule against bailouts, however, would be much more feasible in the European

Community because the Community has no need to import capital from the rest of the world and a default by one member state would not critically damage the national interests of all the others.

This means that European monetary union would most certainly create constraints for profligate governments, even without explicit rules limiting the difference between taxes and spending. Even without the German proposal to define "excess" deficits precisely and impose penalties, there would obviously be peer pressure from other member states to rectify budgetary excesses. But if this failed, a second and

more powerful sanction would come into play, provided the no-bailout rule was strictly observed.

This constraint would be imposed automatically by the financial markets. Some observers believe that an extra percentage point on borrowing costs would not deter spendthrift governments. This, however, misses the point: the true market discipline must be on the lender to stop lending, not the borrower to stop borrowing.

This "market discipline" would work by the financial system cutting off new supplies of credit. The no-bailout rule would be essential as the basis of this discipline, but would not be sufficient by itself. It must be flanked by measures to ensure that the community could not be held hostage by a bankrupt government threatening to precipitate a domino-style collapse of the whole European financial system.

When lending to private borrowers, financial institutions are required to hold a diversified portfolio of assets to ensure that their exposure to the fortunes of any one customer is limited.

These rules must be extended to cover lending to governments. Financial institutions should also be required to value their loans at current market prices. The financial system would then cut off credit supplies to improvident governments, just as it does for the private sector.

The result of this process would be to make the European Community fiscally sound. But there would be no check on the ability of national governments to tax reasonably and to spend responsibly. There would be no need for a Federal Government of Europe and parliamentary sovereignty could be retained.

GRAHAM BISHOP
European Community
specialist, Salomon Brothers

Pound faces risk of a cut too far

GILT-EDGED

In celebrating the cut in base rates and the end of the Gulf war, Britain's financial markets have not been mindful of the particular pattern of international market movements that made the cuts feasible: the market's loss of support against the dollar reduced tensions in the ERM to sterling's benefit.

A month ago, market talk was that the DM2.95 central rate for sterling was unsustainable and that there would never be scope for British rate cuts. Today, the market accepts DM2.92 is here to stay and 11 per cent base rates are in the bag for June.

There is nothing intrinsic to sterling or Britain's economic performance that wrought this change; it is simply a British reflection of a shift in international preferences between the dollar and mark. What has changed can change back again, quite independently of anything that happens or is decided in Britain.

As for the Gulf war, the end to hostilities will not in itself bring the surge in consumer and business confidence in Britain that is now, rightly or wrongly, expected in America. The principal effect on British financial markets is likely to be indirect, from the influence

of peace on other countries and their policies.

The key point here is that central bankers are likely to be just as perplexed as investors over what happens next in the world economy.

By and large, the G7 consumer price data for January were disappointing. Much of the previous rise in oil costs appears to have become embedded in general inflation. Crude oil prices did not collapse, as was widely predicted, when Iraqi forces crumbled.

Then there is the victory surge in confidence, which may, or may not, end the recession in America. With uncertainties such as these, most G7 central banks are likely to sit on their hands and watch events for a few weeks lest they make a disastrous miscalculation on policy.

There are industrial nations where central bankers do not have a free hand with interest rates. France is one such country and it would not be surprising to see French interest rates pushed lower through official action as soon as ERM constraints permit. Another notable member of

this camp is Britain, where the politicians are able to make a respectable economic case for doing what they would want to do anyway at that point in the electoral cycle.

The fact that there may be a respectable economic case for a policy has unfortunately not always allowed the government to carry that policy through to a conclusion.

The Belgians have grown used to life in a relatively small open economy with a currency commitment to link with the mark. For years, they have shunned interest rates up and down to maintain the stability of their franc amid the strong tides of international capital flows.

Whether Britain's authorities have yet developed a similar view regarding the needs of currency management remains to be seen but they, and the British markets, will face a stern test if ever the mark recovers its momentum. Eastern Germany is, after all, still a magnet for capital and the Bundesbank has lent no credence to market views that German short-term interest rates have peaked.

There is probably a better-than-even chance that the mark will rally between now and mid-year.

The adverse effect of a stronger mark on sterling would raise doubts about the wisdom of the prime minister calling an early general election.

In any case, sterling has tended in the past to obey the laws of catastrophe theory. It has always been difficult to predict the pound's reaction to an interest rate cut on the basis of its response to the last reduction.

Consequently, it should not be assumed that sterling's stability so far in the rate-cutting exercise that it will absorb many more cuts with impunity. If governments were able to judge these matters to perfection, there would never be sterling crises. As it is, sterling faces the risk of one cut too many.

For the moment, and probably for some weeks, the markets are likely to shrug away such uncomfortable thoughts. But just as last year's golden scenario disintegrated all too quickly, so there must be questions over the markets' present rosy dreams.

STEPHEN LEWIS
Fifth Horseman

FROM MARCH 14TH TO 17TH, CITY EXPERTS ARE OPENING THEIR DOORS TO THE PUBLIC.

The event is Money '91, the Daily Telegraph Personal Finance Show.

The venue is the City (or more precisely the Barbican). And the experts come from over 100 of the UK's top financial companies.

In what is undoubtedly the most important event of its kind, every aspect of personal finance is covered. You can find out the latest on PEPs and Pensions, on TESSAs and Tax Planning on just about everything from Unit Trusts to Investment Trusts.

You can attend free seminars on the subjects that interest you most: Planning for retirement, Investing for income and Making the best of your lump sum are just three we're tackling.

You can pop in for a quick wealth check so to speak, at the financial advice clinic (sponsored by What Investment).

You can even buy or sell shares here (Remember to bring your certificate!).

All this and, of course, you've all the other attractions of the Barbican to complete the day.

HALF PRICE TICKETS. As a special offer to readers of this newspaper we're offering tickets to Money '91 (usual price £5) at £2.50.

Just telephone the Money '91 ticket HOTLINE on 061-390 0203 during normal office hours, or send the coupon now.

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772

New team for Furber

RICHARD Furber, head of Dean Witter Europe for the past five years, has joined Lehman Brothers to run its European branch network. Boston-born Furber, who joined Dean Witter after a spell on Wall Street with Merrill Lynch, is now working under Steven Spiegel who leads the European division. As Dean Witter's most senior official outside America — he was senior executive and head of international equities — Furber built the firm's London operation from scratch, hiring 63 of the 65 equities staff, and is now looking to repeat his success. "They are committed to building international businesses," says Furber, aged 41, who plays jazz piano in his spare time and was a nationally ranked junior tennis player in America until a motorcycle accident cut short his career. "I played tennis from the age of five, and went on to play nationally until my mid-teens." After ten years in Britain, he has no years in America, plans to return to America, preferring instead to pursue new opportunities in Continental Europe from London.

High anxiety

STRESS, as City folk know only too well, is a fact of everyday life in the Square Mile, but it seems to be getting out of hand. Signs that all is not well emerged last week at the first of a series of seminars held by Legal Protection Con-

sultants, a subsidiary of Sun Alliance, run to help dealers and brokers cope with stress. The first class, held at the Chartered Institute of Insurance brokers and a contingent of whom filled out a questionnaire to determine their state of mind. Every one was found, in the parlance of the test, to be "in the direction of being cardiac prone" — presumably meaning the time has come to take things easier or else. The sorry entrants fared little better when asked how much time they thought they had to themselves each day. The average was only 55 minutes.

WITH the privatisation of National Power and PowerGen about to generate much needed revenue for the Treasury, finance ministers appear to have overlooked one way of generating cash in their own backyard. John Wakeham, the energy secretary, has just pub-

lished the first Whitehall energy efficiency league table. It shows which ministries have been most energy efficient and cost taxpayers the least. With the Welsh Office proudly atop the table, the Treasury props it up in 19th place out of 20. And who was Chancellor during most of that time? John Major.

Learning curves

HARASSED Lloyd's of London names might learn a thing or two at a conference being organised by the publishers of Lloyd's List, the shipping and insurance daily. Included on the agenda is a mock arbitration hearing with experts and lawyers from both sides of the Atlantic demonstrating how reinsurance claims can have a different outcome in Britain and America. Given the problems that Lloyd's has faced in America on matters such as asbestos — not to mention the looming savings and loan banks debacle that could set Lloyd's back £2.5 billion — the £569.25 fee for two days at the Kensington Hilton in April looks positively affordable.

Master class

OUT-of-work City executives seeking a job will soon be able to learn a few new tricks to help them on their way. Up to 250 budding job-seekers are expected at the Institute of Directors on March 18 for *Changing Jobs in a Recession*, a conference aimed at executives who may — heaven forbid — have forgotten how to write a CV. The idea was dreamed up by Chris Kohut, one-time joint head of Euro-

pean marketing for PepsiCo, who is making the most of the present gloomy times. "It is aimed at people between jobs who are hoping to get back into the saddle," says Kohut, who went on to become marketing manager of Pearl Assurance until he was made redundant in 1989 and now runs his own consultancy. The £172.50 fee — about one day's salary for an executive on £45,000 a year — is, he insists, a very good investment at the price.

Sailing on

GRAHAM Clark, a broker on the Baltic Exchange for 30 years and one of the old school of chartered shipbrokers, is attempting to rekindle an old tradition. He has set up as a maritime arbitrator — someone who mediates in disputes between shipowners and agents — and, as such, is one of the few commercial experts left in the field. "Solicitors have come to dominate this area and there are very few commercial men left," says Clark, aged 49, who can justly claim to know all aspects of shipping. As a 17-year-old, he left school to sail round the world, before returning to Britain to work as a dockers. "I worked as a stevedore on Docklands and had a spell on the Clyde," says Clark, twice chairman of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers. "I felt that would be the best way to gain experience." His father, Clifford, was famous for his skills as an arbitrator, and the tradition is now set to continue.

JOHN ASHWORTH



National Power PLC PowerGen plc

Offers for Sale by Kleinwort Benson Limited on behalf of The Secretary of State for Energy

HM Government is now offering for sale approximately 60 per cent. of the ordinary share capital of each of National Power and PowerGen. The offer price of 175p per share is payable in instalments of 100p now and 75p by 4th February 1992.

This advertisement contains the terms and conditions of application, a guide to completing the public application form, and a public application form. It does not contain any information about National Power or PowerGen. It should therefore be read in conjunction with the full Prospectus dated 22nd February 1991 which alone contains approved listing particulars relating to both companies. Copies of the full Prospectus may be obtained, until the Offers for Sale close, from most clearing bank branches and post offices. In applying for shares in National Power and PowerGen you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information in the relevant Sections of the full Prospectus and on the terms and conditions set out in this advertisement. Expressions defined in the full Prospectus have the same meaning in this advertisement. Before deciding to apply for shares you should consider carefully whether shares are a suitable investment for you. Their value can go down as well as up. If you need advice, you should consult a stockbroker, solicitor, accountant, bank manager or other professional adviser. The Council of The Stock Exchange has authorised the issue of this advertisement under section 154(1)(b) of the Financial Services Act 1986 without approving its contents.

SHARE OFFERS AND APPLICATION AND INSTALMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The approximate numbers of shares being offered for sale in the UK and overseas are:

National Power PLC	764.8 million	PowerGen plc	468.8 million
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(a) Applications

Applications must be received no later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 6th March 1991. Instructions on how to return the completed public application form are set out below. The right is reserved to reject, in whole or in part, any application. Once made, applications may not be withdrawn.

(b) No Multiple Applications

ONLY ONE APPLICATION MAY BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON. The only exceptions to this rule are Permitted Employee Applications (as defined in the Prospectus) which may be made by eligible employees and pensioners of National Power, PowerGen and Nuclear Electric.

Multiple applications and suspected multiple applications are liable to be rejected.

Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising a multiple application for their own benefit, or that of any other person, either solely or jointly with other persons. Under the terms and conditions, an applicant can be required to disclose to the Secretary of State or

his agents any information about the application which may be requested.

(c) Allocations

The basis of allocation of the shares in the companies is expected to be announced by 5.00 p.m. on 11th March 1991. If your application is successful in whole or in part, you will be sent an Interim Certificate for the shares allocated to you. If there is heavy demand, you may be allocated fewer shares than you applied for or, in some cases, none at all. If your application is not accepted, all money paid will be returned (without interest). If your application is accepted in part, you will receive (without interest) a refund cheque for the balance of the money paid.

(d) Dealings

It is expected that dealings in the shares will commence on The Stock Exchange at 2.30 p.m. on 12th March 1991 and that, circumstances permitting, Interim Certificates will be sent to applicants allocated shares under the Offers for Sale on or before 18th March 1991. If circumstances require a revised posting plan, an announcement will be made. Applicants who wish to sell before they have received an Interim Certificate will only be able to do so if they make arrangements to deal on this basis. Applicants who deal before receipt of an Interim Certificate will do so at the risk of selling shares for which they have not received an allocation.

(e) Second instalment

You will be sent a separate reminder in respect of shares you hold in each company in advance of the date when the second instalment becomes payable, and this will be sent to your address on the relevant register at the time. If you do not pay the second instalment, your right to the shares may be cancelled. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will become liable for the second instalment (once the transfer has been registered).

(f) Overseas applicants

No person receiving a copy of this advertisement and/or an application form in any territory other than the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such application form unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such form could lawfully be used without contravention by any person of any registration or other regulatory or legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the UK receiving a copy of this advertisement and/or an application form and wishing to make an application hereunder to satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including the obtaining of requisite governmental or other consents or the observance of any other requisite formalities and the payment of any issue, transfer or other taxes due in such territory.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

If you apply for shares in National Power and PowerGen (each a "Company") or (in the case of eligible employees and pensioners of National Power, PowerGen and Nuclear Electric applying under the Employee Discount and Priority Offers, the Free and Matching Offers and the Pensioner Priority Offers) either of them, you will be agreeing with the Secretary of State for Energy, Kleinwort Benson Limited, Lloyds Bank Plc, National Westminster Bank Plc, The Royal Trust Company and each of that Company as set out below. Completion of an application form for shares in both Companies will be treated as a separate and independent application for shares in each Company.

Offer to purchase shares

1. You offer to purchase from the Secretary of State at the Offer Price the number of shares indicated in your application (or any smaller number in respect of which your application is accepted) in the Company on these terms and conditions.

2. You agree that your offer cannot be revoked prior to 13th April 1991 and promise that the cheque or draft accompanying your application will be presented on first presentation. The Secretary of State agrees that he will not, prior to 13th April 1991, offer any of the shares in the Company to any person other than by means of one of the procedures referred to in the Prospectus. Eligible persons duly applying for registration preference will be entitled to registration preference on the basis described in paragraph 1 of Section 5 of the Prospectus. This paragraph 2 constitutes a collateral contract between you and the Secretary of State. It becomes binding when your application is posted to, or (if delivered) is received by, a receiving bank.

3. If your application form is not completed correctly, or if the accompanying cheque or draft is for the wrong amount, it may still be treated as valid. In these circumstances the Secretary of State's (or his agent's) decision as to whether to treat your application as valid, and how to construe, amend or complete it, shall be final. You will not, however, be treated as having offered to purchase more shares in the Company than is indicated in your application for shares in the Company.

4. Any application may be rejected in whole or in part.

Acceptance of your offer to purchase shares

5. The Secretary of State may accept your offer to purchase (if your application is received, valid, processed and not rejected) either:

(i) by notifying The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case the acceptance will be on that basis); or

(ii) by notifying acceptance to the receiving bank which processed your application.

The acceptance may be of the whole or any part of your offer and, accordingly, the number of shares in the Company you offer to purchase may be scaled down.

6. If the Secretary of State accepts your offer to purchase (in whole or in part), there will be a binding contract under which you will be required to purchase the shares in respect of which your offer has been accepted if, prior to 13th April 1991, both:

(i) the whole of the share capital of National Power and PowerGen (issued and to be issued) is admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange; and

(ii) the obligations of the Priority Applicants under the Priority Invitation Letters referred to in paragraph 17 of Section 4 of the Prospectus become unconditional and are not terminated.

7. You will not be entitled to exercise any remedy of rescission for innocent misrepresentation at any time after acceptance. This does not affect any other rights you may have.

Payment for the shares

8. You undertake to pay the purchase price for the shares in the Company in respect of which your offer is accepted in two instalments as described in the Prospectus. The cheque or draft accompanying your application may be presented for payment before acceptance of your offer, but this will not constitute acceptance of your offer either in whole or in part. The proceeds of this presentation will be held pending acceptance and, if your offer is accepted, will be applied in discharging the first instalment, which is due upon acceptance. The second instalment is due on 4th February 1992 (and for value by 3.00 p.m. on that date). Following payment in full of the purchase price the Secretary of State will arrange for the shares which you have agreed to purchase to be transferred to you. This transfer will not, however, occur before 14th January 1992.

9. If your application is invalid, is rejected or is not accepted in full, or if the circumstances described in paragraph 6(i) or (ii) do not occur prior to 13th April 1991, any proceeds of the cheque or draft accompanying your application (or, if your application is accepted in part, the unused balance of those proceeds) will be refunded to you without interest.

10. The Secretary of State may require you to pay interest or his other resulting costs (or both) if the cheque or draft accompanying your application is not honoured on first presentation. If you are required to pay interest, you will pay the amount determined by the Secretary of State or his agents to be the interest on the amount of the cheque or draft from the date of acceptance until the date of receipt of cleared funds. The rate of interest will be the then published bank base rate of a clearing bank selected by the Secretary of State plus 2 per cent. per annum. The Secretary of State may apply part of any payment received from you in paying this interest or other costs. In this event (or if the late payment is for other reasons insufficient) the remainder of the payment will be applied in paying the first instalment in respect of as many shares in the Company as possible. Any balance of the payment remaining will be held by the Secretary of State on your behalf and may be applied in paying any other amounts due to the Secretary of State. If the Secretary of State terminates the agreement to purchase shares under paragraph 11 below and no other amounts remain due to the Secretary of State, the remaining balance will be returned to you (without interest).

11. At any time until the Secretary of State has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of a share the Secretary of State may terminate the agreement to purchase that share. This termination will be effected by notice being despatched to you. In the event of termination you will pay to the Secretary of State, on demand, such amount as may be certified on his behalf as being necessary to compensate the Secretary of State for the losses, costs and expenses incurred or expected to be incurred as a result of the cheque or draft not being honoured on first presentation and as a result of termination (taking into account any

amounts paid under paragraph 10 above and any profit gained on the resale of the share).

12. If you receive any Interim Certificate in respect of the shares you have agreed to purchase before the Secretary of State has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of those shares, you shall forthwith return it to the receiving bank from which it was sent.

Instalment Agreement

13. Upon receipt by the Secretary of State in cleared funds of the first instalment in respect of any share for which your offer to purchase has been accepted, you will become a party to, and will be bound by, the Instalment Agreement in respect of that share. Accordingly, from that date you will be entitled to the benefit of rights attached to that share in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement. Until that date the Secretary of State will remain entitled to the benefit of all rights attached to that share. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement in respect of any share, the obligation to pay the second instalment in respect of that share, and the obligation to transfer shares to you, contained in paragraph 8 above will be replaced by the corresponding obligations in the Instalment Agreement. If, at the date you become a party to the Instalment Agreement, the second instalment has already fallen due and has not been paid, you will be obliged to pay that instalment in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement as if you were a Purchaser (as defined in the Instalment Agreement) on the due date for that instalment.

Incentives

14. If you are eligible and your offer to purchase shares in the Company is accepted, you will be entitled to receive any incentive in relation to the Company you may have elected to receive in your application. This entitlement is governed by, and you must comply with, the requirements set out, or referred to, in Section 5 of the Prospectus.

Warranties

15. You warrant that:

(i) You are not under 18 years of age on the date of your application.

(ii) You are not, and you are not applying on behalf of, a US or Canadian person (as defined in paragraph 2 of Section 5 of the Prospectus) or an individual, corporation or entity resident in Japan.

(iii) If your application, together with all other applications in which you have an interest or in which any person on whose behalf you are applying has an interest, were accepted in full, neither you nor any such person would have an interest (as defined in Article 37 (in the case of National Power) or 45 (in the case of PowerGen) of the Articles of Association of the Company) in shares representing 15 per cent. or more of the issued share capital of the Company.

(iv) In making your application you are relying only on the Prospectus and the Mini Prospectus taken together with the Prospectus and not on any other information or representation concerning the Company or the Combined Offers. You agree that no person responsible for the Prospectus or any part of it will have any liability for any such other information or representation.

(v) If the laws of any place outside the United Kingdom are applicable to your application, you have complied with all such laws and none of the parties mentioned at the top of these terms and conditions will infringe any laws outside the United Kingdom as a result of the acceptance of your offer to purchase or any actions arising from your rights and obligations under these terms and conditions, the Instalment Agreement and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURN OF THE PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

BY POST

SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM
TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN
10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH 1991 at
the appropriate address immediately below
according to the first letter of your surname
(or corporate name) inserted in Box 1.

A to K

Bank of Scotland,
New Issues Department,
Apex House,
9 Haddington Place,
Edinburgh EH7 4AL

L to Z

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc,
Registrar's Department,
P. O. Box No 7,
Canning House, 19 Canning Street,
Edinburgh EH3 8TE

ALLOW AT LEAST TWO DAYS FOR DELIVERY

BY HAND

TAKE THE FORM BY HAND
BEFORE 3.30 PM ON TUESDAY 5TH MARCH 1991
to any UK branch of
Lloyds, Barclays, NatWest, Bank of Scotland,
The Royal Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank

OR TAKE THE FORM BY HAND BEFORE

10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH 1991
TO ANY OF THE RECEIVING CENTRES LISTED OPPOSITE

(open only for delivery by hand)

Belfast
Ulster Bank Limited,
Personal Investment Unit,
88/90 High Street,
Belfast

Birmingham
Lloyds Bank Plc,
125 Colmore Row,
Birmingham

Bristol
National Westminster Bank Plc,
32 Queen Street,
Bristol

Canterbury
Barclays Bank Plc,
121 Queen Street,
Canterbury

Edinburgh
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc,
36 St. Andrew Square,
Edinburgh

Exeter
Lloyds Bank Plc,
234 High Street,
Exeter

Glasgow
Bank of Scotland,
110 St. Vincent Street,
Glasgow

Leeds
National Westminster Bank Plc,
9 Park Row,
Leeds

Liverpool
Barclays Bank Plc,
4 Water Street,
Liverpool

London
Lloyds Bank Plc,
Registrar's Department,
Issue Section,
2nd Floor, Bole House,
80 Cheapside,
London EC2

National Westminster Bank Plc,
New Issues Department,
2 Finsbury Street,
London EC2

Barclays Bank Plc,
New Issues,
Fleamway House,
25 Farringdon Street,
London EC4

Manchester
National Westminster Bank Plc,
55 King Street,
Manchester

Newcastle Upon Tyne
Bank of Scotland,
62/66 Grey Street,
Newcastle Upon Tyne

Nottingham
Barclays Bank Plc,
Bank Place,
Nottingham

Nottingham
Lloyds Bank Plc,
Old Market Square,
Nottingham

Peterborough
Lloyds Bank Plc,
Angon Court,
Northminster Road,
Peterborough

Plymouth
Barclays Bank Plc,
19 Plymouth Street,
Plymouth

Southampton
Lloyds Bank Plc,
19/21 High Street,
Southampton

Jersey
Lloyds Bank Plc,
9 Broad Street,
St. Helier,
Jersey

Guernsey
National Westminster Bank Plc,
35 High Street,
St. Peter Port,
Guernsey

هكمان الشمل

[illegible]

TRAINING



Re your "Investing in Plant" memo sir.
This is Mr. Plank from R&D.

ENTERPRISE

TECs have been created to unlock the potential of individuals, companies and communities across England and Wales.

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They're run by top local employers and community leaders with Government financing, so they are a balance of sharply focused local knowledge backed by national strength.

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COUNCILS

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مركز العمل

Heads you win, heads you lose

Unlike state schools, head teachers of locally managed schools appear to be on to a winner

News of the £55,000 salary awarded to John McIntosh, the head of the London Oratory School, has done much to demoralise other head teachers. Nobody begrudges Mr McIntosh his 60 per cent rise because it is well understood that managing a big secondary school merits a big salary. What sticks in the craw is that his school had to opt out before such a salary was accepted. Head teachers of state schools still under local authority influence are unlikely to get similar treatment.

That headship is becoming a more demanding task is widely accepted. Various pieces of legislation, not least the 1988 Education Reform Act, have increased the managerial nature of the job. By 1992, heads and governors of every school in England will have discretion over 93 per cent of the expenditure of their schools. Many are already in that position. For the first time, head teachers have been responsible for managing budgets that often amount to millions of pounds and ensuring that the books are balanced and needs are met.

Head teachers have now found themselves responsible for staff pay, competitive tendering for school work, control of in-service training money and the management of articulated teachers.

In addition, as recruitment of pupils becomes more competitive, heads have had to acquire extra public relations and marketing skills. This comes on top of having to supervise the implementation of the national curriculum, the most far-reaching educational change for more than 40 years.

Even before the introduction of local management of schools, heads' salaries had fallen well behind comparable jobs in the industrial and service sector, so the 12.75 per cent rise they will receive by the end of this year will be small reward.

The London Oratory School is, however, still a state school, even though it is grant-maintained. So how has Mr McIntosh managed to obtain such a large pay rise?

The answer lies in the fact that governing bodies of locally managed and grant-maintained schools now have the power to pay heads and their deputies at any point on a 51-point pay scale. Six separate "normal salary ranges" are designed to cater for criteria such as school size when making salary

decisions, although even these are not binding. The question is: who initiates the pay review procedure for a head teacher already in post?

The National Association of Head Teachers, the largest of the heads' associations, has advised its members to take the initiative by tabling a claim for governors to consider. The association insists that its guidelines have been prepared to "take the emotion" out of salary negotiations, but its tone suggests a willingness to exploit the new freedom of governing bodies for the benefit of its members. It advises them to work in concert and suggests that "individual members should not undermine the cases put up by colleagues by failing to put in claims themselves". The association is prepared to invoke individual grievance procedures or collective dispute procedures should negotiations break down.

This approach does not meet the approval of the Secondary Heads Association. John Sutton, the general secretary, says: "We have moved away from the idea of sticking in pay claims and going for bust. Although we are concerned that heads' salaries should be commensurate with the greatly increased responsibilities they now have, we are urging our members to get their governors to look at staff salaries as a whole and come up with an overall package."

Mr Sutton knows that although governing bodies might like to pay their senior managers more, they may not be able to do so because of budget restrictions. Increased salaries for senior managers could mean less money for textbooks.

Since the government seems to be giving favourable funding to opted-out schools, their governors have much more room for manoeuvre on head teacher salaries, and a pattern of over-the-odds payments seems to be emerging. Mr McIntosh has benefited from this greater flexibility because the governors consider him an outstanding head teacher.

Many of the rest of us are now starting to wonder what we can do to influence our governors to see us in a more favourable light.

TONY MOONEY

Mr Sutton is the head teacher of Ruislip School in the London Borough of Merton.

Sheffield shows its mettle and steals the show

Once a struggling university, Sheffield has won an increase in funds and students because of its teaching quality, outstanding research and cost-effective plans for expansion.

John O'Leary reports

Several universities had reason to be pleased with last week's allocations from their funding council for 1991-2, but none could match the success enjoyed by Sheffield University. After a number of years in which it has been known as a solid but unspectacular institution, this was a moment of triumph.

Sheffield topped the list in terms of cash and the number of places in Britain to be funded next year. Yet only three years ago, after the rescue of University College, Cardiff, Sheffield was being talked of as the next candidate for financial disaster.

In fact, the university had recognised the dangers it faced, and had come to public attention, because it was consulting its staff on measures to reverse the trend. At a time when most institutions were cutting back, it had already drawn heavily on reserves to fund academic developments. Now seven successive years of deficits should be coming to an end.

A development plan for concerted expansion through the Nineties had been drawn up long before the Universities Funding Council (UFC) embarked on the exercise that resulted in last week's announcements. While other universities were compiling the million pages of information submitted to the UFC, Sheffield was able to compile a glossy brochure to present its case.

The aim was to increase the full-time student population from 10,000 this year to 11,300 in 1993, and 13,000 by the end of the century. Growth would be strongest in science and technology, but would spread through virtually all subjects. A rise of almost 15 per cent in the number of places to be funded by the UFC next year leaves these targets well within reach.

Sheffield, because of its position in the middle of the country and the breadth of subjects it offers, has always attracted many applicants. This year, the number of British students there exceeds the number of places specified by the UFC by 1,200.

All universities are experiencing a high demand for places, however. The funding council's treat-

ment of Sheffield must also be a reward for a decision not to join what has been seen as a cartel operated by many vice-chancellors, which kept most universities' bids for funding near the UFC guidelines. Sheffield's bids were 2 per cent lower on average.

Student numbers are only half the story. The most important figure for any university is the cash allocation from the UFC, which in Sheffield's case showed an increase of almost 20 per cent. As well as a good assessment of teaching quality and cost-effective plans for expansion, this reflected the high ratings the university had received

for its research and the innovation it is showing in course design. Research was rated as outstanding in more than half the 37 subject areas when the UFC ranked departments in 1989. The breadth of excellence was underlined in the range of departments receiving top ratings, from biblical studies to information sciences and psychology. Research grants and contracts are expected to bring in £30 million a year by 1994.

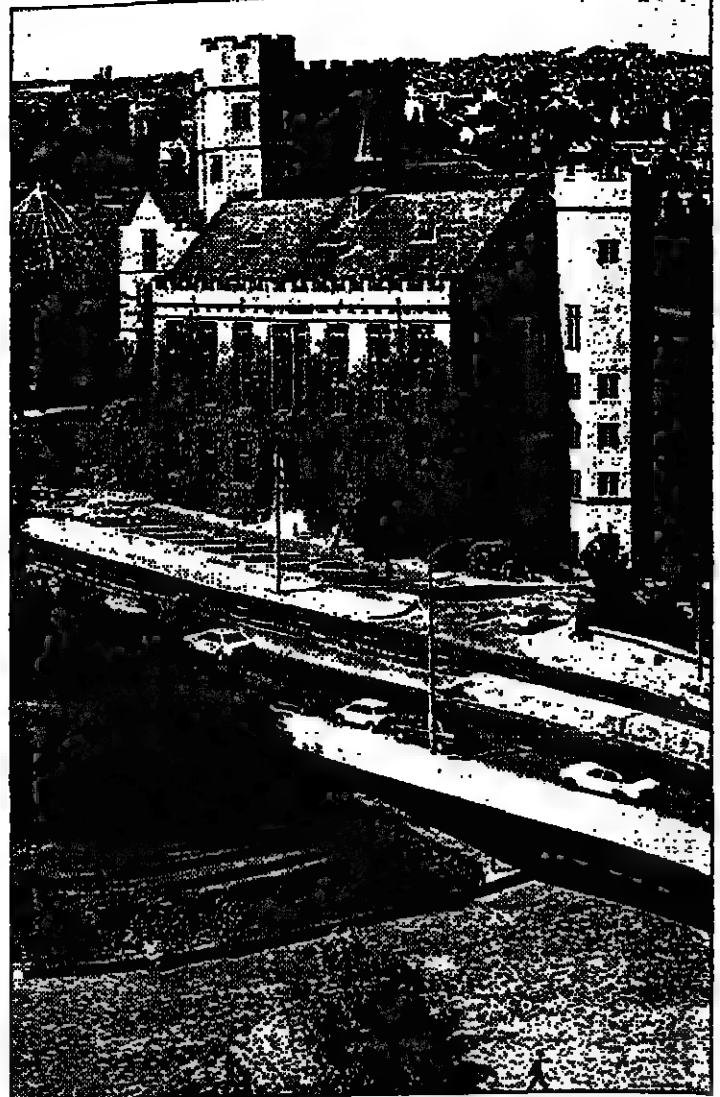
At the same time, Sheffield is planning sweeping changes in course design. Two semesters will replace the conventional three-term academic year in order to accommodate a move to modular courses throughout the university. By no means all the academic staff like such upheaval, but the move is intended to make better use of teaching time.

The extra flexibility should also give access to a wider range of students. There has been a growing number of continuing education courses, and the planning of modules for those without traditional entry qualifications, offers university certificates that can be a pathway to degrees to 500 students in 20 further education colleges and companies.

These developments will be guided by Gareth Roberts, the new vice-chancellor and one of a new breed of higher education leaders with experience in industry.

'There is not a lot of bureaucracy here, and it is a lovely, well-balanced university'

Professor Gareth Roberts, the new vice-chancellor



Sheffield university: planning sweeping changes in course design

Professor Roberts is a former chief scientist at Thorn EMI, with a chair at Oxford university and, before his move to Sheffield, a seat on the UFC.

He was attracted by Sheffield's social conscience and breadth of quality. "There is not a lot of bureaucracy here, and it is a lovely, well-balanced university. Obviously, there are one or two weak points, but we are already doing something about them."

Professor Roberts should be able to see the strengths and weaknesses at first hand because he intends to continue his research when he has settled into the vice-chancellorship. His research group in molecular electronics, which is exploring novel ways of using organic materials, will transfer from Oxford.

"I was down to one day a week at Oxford, and it will be less now," he says. "I tend to spend seven days a week working, so I should be able to fit it in. Partly I am looking ahead to the time when I might want to go back to research. Unless you keep your hand in, you get completely out of touch."

He is still getting used to the switch from industry to university

management. "Universities are having to improve," he says. "The motto in industry used to be: 'If at first you don't succeed, your successor will.' In universities, it was: 'Try again in 20 or 30 years.' No university can afford that any more. Academics are perfectionists, but they have to understand that nobody gets their job 100 per cent right. They have to be satisfied with 80 or 90 per cent, and respond more quickly."

The staff are adjusting to a new, more challenging style of leadership, which involves brainstorming sessions with younger staff and an open invitation to anyone in the university to come and see him. Last week's success should speed up the process and also help to spread more widely Sheffield's reputation as an academic centre.

Professor Roberts believes that the university has not sold itself sufficiently in the past, but, with Sheffield polytechnic topping its own funding council's rankings last year, there could hardly be a better opportunity to put that right. "Between the polytechnic and the university, I doubt if any city in Britain is as well catered for in higher education," he says.

071-481 1066

EDUCATIONAL

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POSTS

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS

The Association seeks to appoint a GENERAL SECRETARY £40,000 plus

The Professional Association of Teachers (PAT) is seeking to appoint a full-time General Secretary to its headquarters in London. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Association and will report to the Council.

Monthly salary will be £39,000 plus expenses. The Association is represented on negotiating and consultative bodies established to represent the interests of teachers and lecturers in the United Kingdom.

The Association constantly explores ways of securing teachers' and lecturers' best interests by methods which do not involve the disruption of schools and colleges. For example, it believes that the question of teachers' pay and conditions should be referred to a Commission for Education and not to the Government.

Applicants will have some experience in the public sector, preferably in education, and will be able to work at all levels of seniority. The successful candidate will be required to travel extensively throughout the United Kingdom.

A high level of commitment to the philosophy of the Association is a fundamental requirement. The salary offered will be £40,000 plus. A car is provided and the Association has an extensive pension scheme and other benefits related to this salary.

Applicants should send their curriculum vitae, together with the names of four referees, and must reach the selection panel by Monday 5 April 1991.

The closing date will be 1 April 1991.

For more information, contact:
Mr G Gosnell, Assistant General Secretary
Professional Association of Teachers
21 St James' Court, Finsbury Gate Derby, DE1 1BT.



THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Chatham House
10 St James's Square
London, SW1Y 4LE

Applications or nominations are invited for the post of Director of Studies. The person appointed will be expected to take overall responsibility for the Institute's extensive programme of research and publication and to deputise as appropriate for the Director of the Institute. Appointment will be for five years in the first instance or for such other period as may be agreed. Salary will be high in the professional range. Further particulars may be obtained from the Assistant Director (House and Personnel), 10 St James's Square, London, SW1Y 4LE. Applications should be received by Monday 25 March, 1991.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY CHAIR OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Applications are invited for the established Chair of Human Geography in the School of Geography. The Chair is available upon the appointment of Professor Alan Wilson as Vice-Chancellor of the University from October 1991. The Chair is open to candidates with an established or developing expertise in any aspect of Human Geography. The School's current main strengths within Human Geography are in Area Studies, Social Geography, Regional Economics, Urban Systems Modelling, Human Systems, Urban Systems Modelling, Population Modelling, Resource Management, People-Environment Relations, Historical Geography and Spatial Modelling. The University is seeking to appoint a person with imagination and energy to expand one or more of these fields but would also be pleased to consider those who can develop entirely new and important fields in geography. The school currently enjoys the status of a Grade 5 (internationally outstanding) department as defined by the UFC's research selectivity ratings. The salary will be within the non-clinical professional range.

Further particulars may be obtained from: The Registrar, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT (Tel. No. 0532 333669), quoting reference number 32/47. Applications (two copies) stating age, giving details of qualifications and experience, and naming three referees and providing a statement of how, if successful, you would envisage fulfilling the requirements of the post should reach the Registrar not later than 16 April 1991. Applicants from overseas may apply in the first instance by letter (053473 UNILDS G) or telex (0532-335779), naming three referees. Preferably at least one in the United Kingdom. Informal enquiries about the post may be made to Dr A. J. McDonald, Chairman of the School of Geography (0532 333644 or fax 0532 333689).

The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer.



COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS Examinations Secretary Central London c £20,600

The College expects to receive its first independent Charter later this year. A number of administrative functions, hitherto provided by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, will now need to be undertaken by the College itself. Applications are therefore invited for the post of Examinations Secretary to the College of Anaesthetists to lead a small department responsible for the College's postgraduate examinations. Although this is a senior post within the College's administrative structure, the appointee will need, at least initially, to become involved in routine work and to play a leading part in establishing information technology systems appropriate to the examinations function.

A proven track record at a senior administrative level, together with examinations administrative experience is essential; knowledge of medical examinations administration would be desirable. Interviews will be held on 28th March. Further information may be obtained from the Personnel Department (071-405 3474 ext 4083). Applicants should send six copies of a curriculum vitae, together with a letter outlining their suitability for the post to:

Personnel and Training Officer, Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN
Please quote reference: 04/91
Closing date: Wednesday 20th March 1991



CANFORD SCHOOL WIMBORNE DORSET APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors wish to appoint a Head to succeed Mr Martin Marriott MA, who is retiring on 31st August 1992.

Full particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the Secretary to the Governors, 42 South Bar Street, Banbury, Oxon. OX16 9XL. (Telephone: (0295) 256441). Closing date for applications: Monday, 15th April 1991.

WALHAMPTON SCHOOL Lymington BURSAR

From 1st September 1991

Walhampton is a leading IAPS Day and Boarding School of 250 pupils, situated in a first estate and its listed building. Further details available from the Secretary to the Governing Body, 56 Southampton Road, SO41 9QG, to whom applications, including a CV and the names of two referees, should be returned. Closing date for applications 15th April 1991.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Department of Civil Engineering Institution of Structural Engineers Chair of Structural Design

The Institution of Structural Engineers founded the Chair in Structural Design in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Leeds in 1986. The Chair will become vacant from September 1991 and applications are now invited from Chartered Engineers with extensive professional experience in structural design to fill the post. The University will welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, encompassing those whose previous career has been largely in professional practice to those with a career predominantly in research. Structural design has been established as an important discipline within the Department for many years, and the person appointed will be expected to continue to promote the teaching of structural design and to pursue and stimulate research associated with this discipline. The three 4-year MEng degree schemes currently in operation within the Department offer considerable opportunities for extending the teaching of structural design, particularly through comprehensive project work linked with industry. Appointments to Chairs within the University are normally made on a full-time basis with retirement. Exceptionally, in this instance, the University will be prepared to consider a fixed-term or part-time appointment. Wherever the basis of the appointment the successful candidate will be expected to retain strong links with professional practice, as well as with appropriate research bodies. The salary will be within the professional range.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT, quoting reference 34/62. Applicants, giving details of age, qualifications and experience, and naming three referees, should reach the Registrar not later than 16 April 1991. Applicants from overseas may apply in the first instance by letter (053473 UNILDS G) or telex (0532-335779), naming three referees, one of whom should preferably be in the United Kingdom. The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

NORTHERN COLLEGE ABERDEEN & DUNDEE

(ABERDEEN AND DUNDEE) c12(DEPUTY HEAD OF RESEARCH DEPARTMENT) (ABERDEEN CAMPUS)

As a result of an increasing programme in Educational Research the College requires a Deputy Head of Research, to work within a successful and high profile department. Applicants should have a strong academic background, coupled with a record of effective participation in Educational research projects at a national level.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop research opportunities and working in the management of major research programmes. The postholder would be expected to contribute to the development and promotion of courses related research at the College.

Applicants are invited to telephone Dr Mary Simpson, Head of the Research Department, who will be happy to provide further information about the post and the work of the Department on (0224) 282000.

Salary will be commensurate to experience.

Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Department, Northern College of Education, Milton Place, Aberdeen AB9 1FA to whom completed applications should be lodged by 8 March 1991.

Please quote reference number A/8/91 on all correspondence.

HIGHGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Applications are invited for the post of

H E A D

of this Preparatory School for 300 boys, to succeed Mr Allan Fox in September 1992.

Full details and an application form are available from R. P. Kennedy, Head Master, Highgate School, North Road, London N6 4AY (tel: 081-340 1524, fax: 081-340 7674).

NORTHERN GREECE

Experienced EFL teachers, native speakers, University or college graduates are required. Find your students are also welcome. One year or longer term contracts. Please send CV, photo, referees to: The Hellenic School of Languages, 24 Princes Street, London W1P 2JL. Tel: 01-492 2222. Theodosia, Greece.

ALL BOX NO. REFUSAL

BOX NO. 487. P.O. BOX 487. VIRGINIA STREET. WAPPING. LONDON. E1 9DD.

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE

When school ends work begins

At four o'clock, Jennifer Preston's doorbell rings. The first of her afternoon pupils has arrived. For the next two hours she will lead the way through the labyrinth of the comma and the full stop, wrestle with the perils of the nine-times table and reveal the glories of multiplication and division.

In short, she teaches basic English comprehension, reading and mathematics. Occasionally, if a parent is frantic, she will squeeze in an extra hour before school.

Mrs Preston is a respected private tutor with a waiting list of pupils, some as young as seven, stretching into 1993. Extra tuition has never been in such demand, and reaches a peak at Easter as public examinations approach.

To meet the demand, teachers at some state and independent schools are moonlighting to pick up an extra £10, £15, or even £20 an hour. Retired teachers, or those at home with young children of their own, are finding that parents, often neighbours, are begging them to give "a bit of extra coaching".

As in many cottage industries, there are no rules or safeguards. Bookings usually come by word of mouth or from a card in a shop window. Qualifications and experience must often be taken on trust, and fees are negotiable. Yet many tutors are uneasy about the growing market in which thousands of children come home from school for another bout of teaching, and often more homework.

Our whole existence is an indictment of the education system," says Dr Karina Halstead, of Home Tutors, a teachers' co-operative at the more organised end of the spectrum. The organisation has about 1,000 members, many working full-time in the state sector, who go to pupils' homes all over London. Travel expenses are added to the minimum hourly fee of £8.50.

Requests for extra tuition fall into two broad categories, both, rightly or wrongly, reflecting parents' dissatisfaction with state education standards. The first is remedial, in which a child has failed to grasp basic rules in a subject such as maths. The second type of request is for help to repair damage suffered from a school's poor choice of reading scheme.

Dr Halstead says: "Schools are under-resourced and under-staffed." She suspects that the national curriculum, when it is in place, could be a yardstick to prompt even more parents to resort to private tutoring.

In the right circumstances, remedial tuition can be a boon. "Matthew blossomed almost over-

As more parents hire private coaching for their children, doubts are being expressed about the tutors' role, some moonlighting from state schools, and the pressures on pupils. Anne Woodham reports



Jennifer Preston, a private tutor, gives a pupil help: "I am against children being coached for exams"

night when he started maths coaching," says Pamela Harrison, whose seven-year-old son was at a south London state primary school. "Just sitting with someone who encouraged him and went at his pace gave him a boost of confidence."

Middle-class parents are the quickest to call in a coach, says the headmistress of a west London comprehensive. She considers coaching harmless, but unnecessary, because many GCSE subjects are marked on course work, and feels outside help on maths and physics can prevent real dangers.

Parents, aided and abetted by a tutor who may be out of touch with the latest syllabus, are often convinced that their child should sit a higher paper than the one for which the school has entered him. "If a child who is not up to it sits

the tougher exam and fails," the headmistress says, "he will get a lower grade than if he sat only the straight paper."

Dr Halstead says that she advises parents to tell the school if they are employing a coach. In certain circumstances, where remedial tuition is not available on site, a school will even suggest that a little extra work might help.

However, there are already, perhaps more disturbing, situations in which parents like to keep their child's coaching as discreet as possible, and it is these that occupy the bulk of private tuition.

The reason for their secrecy is that an increasing number of parents are seeking independent education, particularly those with children at day schools. In cities such as London and Birmingham, there are not enough places to go around. Competition has become

cut-throat. For example, at Colet Court, the prep school for St Paul's, in London, the 1990 entry list has closed. Only 72 of the 130 boys of seven who battled through a rigorous exam this January will enter the school in September.

With stakes so high, some parents will stop at almost nothing to make sure their child is among the favoured few. For example, a seven-year-old already at a "hot-house" private school went to two separate tutors a week.

Deborah Davis sent her nine-year-old son Tom to a coach in Chiswick, west London, where a group of six children ploughed through reams of sums from a computer. What was not completed was taken home to finish.

"It was not as much of a sweatshop as you would think," she insists, "and they each were given a Penguin bar when they

finished. What was a revelation to me was that two-thirds of the children there were prep school pupils."

Billy Howard, the headmaster of Colet Court, says children at private pre-prep schools do not need coaching for the entrance exam. "If they cannot manage, they should not come here," he says. "If, however, they are at some woolly state school where they are not taught to set out their sums and learn tables, we suggest one or two hours a week for a term or two."

Mike and Jane Cook sent their son Nico to Susie Morgan, recommended by Mr Howard, for a term before the entrance exam. "He was at the local state primary school and had not even begun to learn his tables," Mrs Cook says. Nico did not mind the extra work. He is a bright boy and now tops his class.

Mrs Morgan warns parents if she thinks their child stands little chance of success, but says demand has grown in the past ten years. She adds: "It gives an enormous sense of achievement to have a child for a year and see them blossom."

Mrs Preston, who has an extra qualification in special needs, took up private tutoring when her own four children were small. "One-to-one attention can help a child's self-esteem," she says.

The pleasure of working on an individual basis is also one reason — apart from the money — why state school teachers, struggling to control classes of more than 30 children, often like a little coaching work on the side.

"But I am against children being coached for exams and I make this clear to the parents," Mrs Preston says. "It's not fair on them."

To be fair to schools setting entrance exams, they do their utmost to make an honest assessment of the children's capabilities and trip up any who have been coached beyond their real ability.

Mr Howard adds that nobody benefits if a child is accepted and then cannot keep up.

"This kind of pressure is fantastically destructive for children," says Peter Kendall, an education psychologist who runs Child Consultants, which assesses children. "The message they absorb is 'Mummy doesn't love me because I'm not good.' Stress symptoms appear: poor sleeping, loss of appetite, nail biting, headaches, facial twitches. What is needed is a healthy dose of cynicism which is something parents can be notoriously short on where their own offspring are concerned."

Please pass the cider

PLANS to replace traditional school meals for Somerset children from low-income families with a privatised service offering Marmite sandwiches, fairy cakes and nuts has set off a row between the county's education and health authorities.

School meals have been scrapped as part of a £4.6 million package of education cuts, but the new service will meet the county's obligations to 4,000 children who qualify for free meals. The first menu suggested by the private service was said by the health authority to contain too much fat and sugar, and too little protein and iron. It might have even been fatal for five year-olds, who could choke on the peanuts offered, it warned.

The menus have now been changed, substituting snacks such as pizzas and apples for the Marmite sandwiches, but not before the county council made its own attack on the health officials. Roger Smith, the county council spokesman, says: "We sent the health authority details of the winning contract and invited them to help us with the fine tuning. We wanted their guidance. We find it an astonishing lack of professional propriety for them to go to the media with their views when they have not had the courtesy to reply to us."

Guide to blindness

SCHOOLS throughout Britain are being sent an information pack today to help children understand the problems of blindness. The material, produced by the Royal National Institute for the Blind, is the first publication on the subject to meet national curriculum attainment targets.

Laughing sailors

ALL school parties will be admitted free to the National Maritime Museum, in Greenwich, on Comic Relief on March 15. The museum's education department has devised a range of activities to put fun into the national curriculum. The department hopes to attract 500 pupils, each of whom will be given a red nose.

No longer skint

STUDENTS at Keele university are being asked to sell their skin at £5 a slice to help biochemists researching new forms of treatment. By the end

of last week, a dozen undergraduates had been paid for a "painless operation" to remove small areas of skin for use in psoriasis research. Harold Yardley, the biochemist whose research is benefiting, says: "The money is paid out to ensure we have enough skin to test."

Brains and beauty

ADENIKE Oshinowo, a 24-year-old Essex university student, has turned down a chance to take part in the Miss Universe competition in Japan next month because the finals clash with her own finals in politics. She hopes to get her BA this summer.



A former model, Miss Oshinowo (pictured above), was last month voted the most beautiful girl in Nigeria. She will contest herself with entries for the Miss World and Miss International competitions later this year.

Welsh wisdom

POWYS, the county that levies the lowest poll tax in Wales, has been shown to have the principality's smallest classes in primary and secondary schools, as well as spending the most on primary education.

Robert Bevan, the county's director of education, says: "Powys shows that a high quality and efficient service can be provided at a reasonable cost when there is a firm commitment to management efficiency among the councillors and officers."

JOHN O'LEARY

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE (University of London)

Chair in Human Nutrition

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & POLICY

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is one of the world's premier institutions in the fields of public health and tropical medicine. It is currently undergoing major restructuring and reform.

This new strategy embraces exciting initiatives in the Department of Public Health & Policy, one of the four large multi-disciplinary departments in the School, under the direction of Professor Patrick Vaughan, Head of Department. The Department plans a continued expansion of its activities during the 1990s, particularly with regard to Europe, focusing on health policy, and the evaluation of health and health programmes.

The Department encompasses five research units working on health policy, health services research, health promotion sciences, human nutrition and environmental health. It will be responsible for the organization of five Master of Science degrees and it has a large PhD research degree training programme. The Department has close links with the National Health Service and it has both national and international health activities.

The School has re-established this Chair, previously held by Dr John Waterlow FRCS, in order to lead and build the Department's teaching and research in Human Nutrition during the 1990s, particularly within Europe. The post would suit an applicant with expertise in both the clinical and public health aspects of human nutrition who also has strong interests in policy studies. An ability to work with multidisciplinary staff and to establish new research programmes will be required.

Applicants are invited to telephone Professor Vaughan on 071-927 2255 for an informal discussion. Formal applications should be sent to the Personnel Officer, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT (Telephone 071-927 2420) from whom further particulars may be obtained. Closing date 12 April 1991.



KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
University of London
Department of Classics
CHAIR OF GREEK LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Applications are invited for the established Chair of Greek Language and Literature in the Department of Classics which will become vacant on 1st October 1991. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the teaching of the course. Applicants should be well-qualified academically in a field relevant to the course, particularly Greek Language and Literature. Some knowledge of Greek language, society, culture and business transactions would be an advantage. Details and application forms may be obtained from the Director of the Department for Continuing Education, University House, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA. (Fax: 01865 273000). Completed applications should be sent by 8 April 1991.

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University of London
ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL
Hammer-smith Hospital
CHAIR OF MEDICINE

Applications are invited for the established Chair of Medicine in the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, in succession to Professor Sir Colin Doherty who has been appointed Dean of the School from 1 October 1991. The person appointed, in addition to acting as Head of the academic Department of Medicine, will be Director of Services for Medicine to the Hammer-smith and Queen Charlotte's Special Health Authority.

Informal enquiries about this post should be addressed to the present Dean of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Professor D N S Kerr (Telephone 081 740 3200), from whom further particulars are available. Letters of application should be accompanied by a full curriculum vitae and an outline of the applicant's research proposals (ten copies) together with the names and addresses of three referees, and should be sent to the Deputy Secretary, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Du Cane Road, London W12 0NN. The closing date for the receipt of applications is 19 April 1991.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In association with Green College
University Lectureship in Applied Social Studies (Social Work)

Applications from graduates with a qualification in Social Work are invited for this post, tenable from 1 September 1991 or as soon as possible thereafter. Stipend according to age on the scale £12,086 to £22,619 per annum.

The successful candidate may be offered a fellowship by Green College.

Further particulars may be obtained from Mrs. S.J. Oyon, Department of Applied Social Studies and Social Research, Barnet House, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2ET. Applications (eight copies, one for overseas candidates) should be submitted to the Director of the Department of Applied Social Studies and Social Research by 27 March 1991.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In association with Rewley House
DIRECTOR: DIPLOMA IN EUROPEAN STUDIES

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the University's new Diploma Course in European Studies aimed primarily at incoming managers. The initial appointment will be for a term of three years. The University will consider filling the post by secondment, either from within the University, or by arrangement with another organisation. The applicant will be on the scale £12,086 to £22,619. The Post will carry with it a Fellowship of Rewley House.

The successful candidate will direct the diploma course, take responsibility for the necessary academic arrangements and be expected to contribute to the teaching of the course. Applicants should be well-qualified academically in a field relevant to the course, particularly European Studies or Management Studies. Considerable energy and administrative skills are required. Some knowledge of Japanese language, society, culture and business transactions would be an advantage. Details and application forms may be obtained from the Director of the Department for Continuing Education, University House, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA. (Fax: 01865 273000). Completed applications should be sent by 8 April 1991.

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

Department of International Relations
LECTURESHP IN SOVIET DOMESTIC POLITICS

Applications are invited for the post of lecturer in Soviet Domestic Politics, under the aegis of the Centre for Russian Studies and East European Studies. Candidates with a special research interest in the nationalities question would be particularly welcome, though those with other specialisations should not be discouraged from applying. Candidates must be proficient in the relevant language or languages. It would be helpful if the candidate had also had some interest in the external relations of the Soviet Union and other East European countries. This lectureship is being established as a result of the University's successful bid for one of the ten lectureships created with the help of Government funding by the British Council.

The Lecturer appointed will be paid on either the Lecturer Grade A scale £12,086 to £16,766 per annum or the Grade B scale £17,465 to £22,619 per annum.

Application forms and further particulars are available from the Head of Personnel Services, The University, College Gate, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AJ. Tel: 765411 ext 3590 to whom completed forms accompanied by a letter of application and a CV should be returned to arrive not later than Friday 29 March 1991.

The University operates an Equal Opportunities Policy.

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POSTS

UNIVERSITY OF READING
DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL LIAISON

Applications are invited for the duties of which involve promoting opportunities for the University to collaborate with industrial companies, with particular emphasis on the exploitation of inventions, consultancy and contract research. The post is full time. Salary up to £26,471 p.a. together with a generous pension scheme and a bonus of up to £7,000 p.a. Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Officer, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading, RG6 2AH, telephone (0734) 316751. Closing date 31st March 1991.

Please quote Ref P97

IRISH PEACE INSTITUTE CHAIR OF PEACE AND CO-OPERATION STUDIES

The three constituent colleges of the University of Limerick (Business, Engineering & Science and Humanities), the worldwide campus is located at the heart of the 650-acre Plascy Technological Park on the east bank of the Shannon.

The College of Humanities has a student enrolment in excess of 700 and offers programmes of teaching and research to doctoral level.

This newly created Chair, endowed by the Irish Peace Institute, is being established within the College of Humanities at the University, in the Department of Languages and Applied Social Studies. The person appointed to fill the Chair, as the Irish Peace Institute Professor of Peace and Co-operation Studies, will be expected to teach on existing courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level and to design and develop new programmes of teaching and research in peace and co-operation studies.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the above post. They should hold a doctorate in an appropriate field of study and have a strong research and publications record in the theory and practice of conflict-resolution, peace-building and managed people to people co-operation.

An attractive remuneration package reflecting the importance of the appointment will be negotiated with the successful candidate.

Application material, available from the Personnel Department, University of Limerick, Plascy Technological Park, Limerick, Ireland, should be completed and returned by Friday, 6th April 1991.

Continued on next page

CRICKET

'Archaic' covering scheme dismays England officials

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN COLOMBO

ENGLAND A were left frustrated yesterday when the umpires ruled that play on the third day of the third unofficial Test match here could not start until 25 minutes after tea. England believed that a start was feasible more than three hours earlier. Only 40 minutes of play was possible before Sri Lanka A accepted an offer to go off for bad light.

By then they were 48 for one in reply to the England first innings of 306. With two days left the match seems certain to be drawn, which would leave the series undecided after two earlier draws. As the players returned to their hotel, a tropical storm broke and rain continued for several hours, which did not augur well for a prompt restart.

Today was originally scheduled to be a rest day but following the assassination on Saturday of Ranjan Wijeratne, the Sri Lankan defence minister, England agreed to a request to play the match through without interruption. Wednesday, the day on which the game was due to end, has been declared a national day of mourning.

Bad light followed by thunderstorms had also brought an early finish on Saturday and more than six hours have now been lost in the match. Water that had seeped onto a pitch protected

by plastic sheets accounted for yesterday's long wait before play could commence.

Bob Bennett, the tour manager, said England were willing to play by noon and it was disappointing that the umpires had waited another three-and-a-half hours. He said he would be recommending in his tour report that the Sri Lankan authorities should consider improved covering arrangements.

Keith Fletcher, the team manager, described the covering as "archaic" and said arrangements had remained unchanged in the nine years since Sri Lanka achieved Test status. "The covering is not adequate for a Test match ground," Fletcher said. He also thought the umpires had acted prematurely in their bad light decision.

Most of the delay was caused by a wet patch at one end in a bowler's footlock about a foot outside a left hander's off stump and on a half-volley length. It was still damp when play did start.

England used their three seamers during the ten overs possible and the batsmen were untroubled by the pitch's behaviour. "I do not blame the Sri Lankans for not wanting to play," Fletcher said. "But we could have started three hours earlier than we did

and there would have been a lot more in the pitch."

Overall this has been a tedious match with England occupying the crease on Saturday for a further 70.5 overs as they added 114 runs. Their final score represented a good recovery from 59 for four but a little more enterprise by the later batsmen would not have been amiss and might even have been more productive.

Hussain and Thorpe did not stay long, their fifty-wicket stand finally being worth 144. Hegg and Newport added 51 in 135 minutes and Ilett and Pick put on 36 in 69 minutes for the last wicket. All the arguments, though, have now been rendered academic by the thunderstorms.

ENGLAND A: First Innings
D J Biddle c Ranjitha b Hussain 11
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Sri Lankans take control

AUCKLAND (Reuters) - Sri Lanka were well placed to win their first Test away from home, and with the series after three days of the third and deciding match against New Zealand here.

They were 62 for two in their second innings when bad light stopped play, after dismissing New Zealand for 317 to gain a first-innings lead of 63. It was surprising when the third-wicket pair accepted the umpires' offer to go off with 16 overs remaining, for the decision had been preceded by positive batting.

The New Zealand coach, Warren Lees, said: "They got into a position where they could have pushed home the advantage, then didn't want to play."

But the Sri Lankan captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, believed that if his side had lost two more wickets New Zealand would

CYCLING

Boardman leads Wheelers home

By PETER BRYAN

CHRIS Boardman, whose second-place finish in the world road race, broke his second course record within a week yesterday, winning the North Wales RC time trial, a 28.5-mile circuit of Penlleth Hill, against a backdrop of a snow-covered hill.

He rode in with a time of 1hr 10min 34sec, a 20-second improvement on his own record set last year, and led his Manchester Wheelers team of Scott O'Brien and Alan Gornall to a clean sweep of the first three places.

It was a weekend of speed for the Preston rider, who the

previous day had partnered Britain's fastest 25-miler, Pete Longbottom, to win the Nova CC 25-mile team trial in 53min 54sec.

Boardman, with an ambitious programme this year based on retaining his national 25-mile title but extending to international competition, was always in the lead on the hilly Penlleth circuit yesterday, which included a three-mile climb from Marrowfield.

Such was his strength in the wind and cold that he finished with three minutes in hand from O'Brien and almost five minutes ahead of the former professional, Gornall.

RESULTS: North Wales RC (28.5 miles): 1, C Boardman (Manchester Wheelers), 1hr 10min 34sec; 2, S O'Brien (Manchester Wheelers), 1hr 11min 04sec; 3, A Gornall (Manchester Wheelers), 1hr 11min 54sec.

Kappes in clear
Andreas Kappes, of Germany, took the lead 200 metres from home to snatch the 201-kilometre West Volk cycling race in Ghent on Saturday. He meant to clear the way for Etienne De Wilde, his Belgian team-mate, only to win himself because De Wilde was blocked by another rider.

Tennis set for family tie-break



The big Mac: John McEnroe plays a return during his semi-final win in Chicago

McEnroes pass semi-final test

CHICAGO (AP) - McEnroe v McEnroe. That is the line-up for the final of the Volvo Chicago indoor tournament after John McEnroe, the No. 1 seed, set up a meeting with his younger brother, Patrick, by eliminating Malville Washington, 7-6, 6-7, 6-4 on Saturday.

The elder McEnroe will be going for his 10th singles title. Patrick, aged 24, who beat Grant Connell, of Canada, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 earlier in the day, will be playing for his

first title. "If I don't beat my brother, I won't be able to show my face on the planet for six months," John said.

The McEnroes have played only once before, with John beating Patrick 6-2, 6-1 in 1985 at Stratton, Vermont. "John," Patrick said, "has all the shots. You never know where his serve will go, and it will be a boost for me in the rankings if I win."

John McEnroe rallied from a 2-0 third-set deficit with breaks in the third and seventh games. The two-hour, 48-minute

match ended when McEnroe put a drop shot just out of Washington's reach on match point.

● ROTTERDAM: The unseeded Italian, Omar Camporese, caused a spectacular upset yesterday by beating the No. 1 seed, Ivan Lendl, to win the Amro world tournament (AP reports). The Italian, aged 22, came back from a sluggish start to win 3-6, 7-6, 7-6.

Results, page 33

POINT-TO-POINT

Bachelor Of Law gains verdict at 33-1

By BRIAN BEEL

THE ten-year-old maiden Bachelor Of Law was the surprise 33-1 winner of the Times Championship at the Hareley Hambleton point-to-point on Saturday.

Chilhampton was installed the favourite and he was the only one still in contention with the eventual winner from three to four. Although Tim Mitchell kept him to within two lengths of Bachelor Of Law to the last fence, his brother, Nick, produced the better turn of foot from the rank outsider and stormed home by 12 lengths.

In the maiden race, there was also a shock for the punters with the 33-1 Paddy's Lad also winning impressively by 20 lengths in a field of 15. Mike Fenton finally got off the mark this season with a win on David Naylor-Leyland's More Action in the open.

In the members' race at the Bicester, Steven Astaire lost an iron on Discus Thrower and pulled up before the fourth fence. The home reappeared to win division two of the PPOA. There was a first winning ride here for Houghton Irwin's Kidney Fury Manor, who beat the experi-

enced Stephanie Baxter on the favorite, Write The Music, in the ladies' open.

Results

HURLEY HAMBLETON (Buckley Ring):
1, Bachelor Of Law, 33-1; 2, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 3, Tim Mitchell, 10-1; 4, Nick Mitchell, 10-1; 5, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 6, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 7, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 8, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 9, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 10, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 11, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 12, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 13, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 14, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 15, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 16, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 17, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 18, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 19, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 20, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 21, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 22, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 23, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 24, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 25, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 26, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 27, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 28, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 29, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 30, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 31, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 32, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 33, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 34, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 35, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 36, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 37, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 38, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 39, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 40, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 41, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 42, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 43, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 44, Paddy's Lad, 10-1; 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Mad Casanova can strike winning note again for Sherwood

By MANDARIN

MAD Casanova, a game winner at Haydock Park on his penultimate start, can register his second success of the season in the Levy Board Novices' Hurdle at Windsor this afternoon. He is my nap.

Although he was rather disappointing when a short-priced favourite for a competitive Sandown handicap subsequently — he finished fourth to Lake Teerem — the form of the Haydock race has suggested that giving him another chance is in order.

At Haydock he ran on strongly to hold off Wagon Load by two lengths, and Wagon Load has gone on to win at Plumpton and, more significantly, a valuable handicap at Newbury last Friday.

Despite Mad Casanova's 7lb penalty he is not likely to be treated as a step down in class from Sandown. Mediane won a handicap at Nottingham last time (Hascombe Hill failed off) but has more to do at level weights with Mad Casanova.

Oliver Sherwood, Mad Casanova's trainer, will be looking for Patriot to follow up an impressive return from a 22-month absence when winning at Folkestone last



Sherwood: high hopes for Mad Casanova

month. The eight-year-old, who was kept away from the course by a combination of a leg injury and muscle problems in his neck, is likely to improve for that run but he has a tough task in attempting to concede 7lb to Who's In Charge in the College Novices' Chase.

Who's In Charge, the winner of point-to-point in Ireland, is considered a worthy addition to Nicky Henderson's powerful team of novice chasers and he can get off on the right foot here.

Henderson will also be entertaining hopes of a dou-

ble, in his case with New York Rainbow in the EBF Novices' Hurdle Qualifier, but here I side with Egypt Mill Prince.

On a line through the recent Haydock winner Oneupmanship, New York Rainbow should have the edge but Egypt Mill Prince showed considerable promise when five lengths second to Oneupmanship over this course and distance at the end of January. He has plenty of scope for improvement and can win a race such as this.

Martin Pipe's Biennial can make amends for an odd-on defeat at Lingfield last week by taking the Thames Novices' Hurdle. Adopting the front-running tactics typical of the stable, he led until weakening on the run to the last and finished 12½ lengths third to Great Simplicity. This former useful Flat performer is likely to be better for the experience and, if anything, has less to do here.

On Southwell's all-weather track, Megan's Flight has an excellent opportunity to add to a recent course and distance success in the Design Contractors Novices' Hurdle while Abigail's Dream can overcome fellow treble-seeker Tristan's Comet in the Meden Vale Novices' Claiming Hurdle.

Smart Ancella to lead way

By BRIAN BEEL

AT THE North Herefordshire point-to-point nine days ago, Ancella, who was enough winning to suggest that she is the one they all have to beat in the opening Robert Barrow 'Bryan Pheasant' Maiden Hunters' Chase at Leicester today.

She is just preferred to Adventure, runner-up to Run And Skip at Stratford, and George Smith, who made a promising seasonal debut at Tewkesbury the same day.

If some Obbligations jumps round safely, which he failed to do at Warwick, he should be able to give weight all round in the 2.45 event. Although beaten

into second place at the Mendips Farmers meeting, Pastoral Pride looks clearly second best.

King Neen, who lines up for the Barton Group 'Brian Gwynne' Hunters' Chase, has not yet had an outing this season and disappointed first time out last year before winning, in good company, at Kempton. He is difficult to oppose, but a slight change, who was running on at Lingfield on Monday when his bridle broke, may be a better bet on this occasion.

If Old Nick is to have any chance at Cheltenham in the Foxhunters' next week, he

needs to stamp his authority on the useful field in the 3.50 event. He is far from good, but is taken to make amends for missing his rider, Nigel Smith, last time out.

Wall Game and Matrix are difficult to separate in the 4.55 race. Wall Game, a former point-to-point winner who was two races easing up last season, is from the stable who produced the former star hunter chaser Border Boy. Wall Game has not yet been seen this season so the proven fitness of Matrix, winner of the North Hereford ladies' open, determines that he just gets the vote.

SELECTIONS

By MANDARIN

2.10 Megan's Flight. 2.40 Feasible. 3.10 Kathy Cook. 3.40 Abigail's Dream. 4.10 Arthur's Stone. 4.40 Mona Chic.

By THUNDERER

2.10 Megan's Flight. 2.40 Miami Bear. 3.10 Kathy Cook. 3.40 Abigail's Dream. 4.10 Pat Linn. 4.40 Capricorn King.

Going: standard

2.10 DESIGN CONTRACTORS NOVICES HURDLE (21.685; 2m 6f) (7 runners)

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2. 22 PIPER 14 (5) P Bury 6-11-5
3. 23 CANYON BAY 14 (5) P Bury 6-11-5
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5. 25 CANYON BAY 14 (5) P Bury 6-11-5
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By THUNDERER

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SELECTIONS

By MANDARIN

2.00 Biennial. 2

